



the UNIGRAM

The Responsibilities of Being Human

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister

One of the main tenets of Humanism is that we need to be focused on the here and now. Humanists have long argued that there is no heaven and hell or afterlife, and more importantly, given that that's the case, that we need to spend our lives making the world a better place *right now*, instead of trying taking action trying to earn merit for our post-death destination. Though both sides come at it from opposite ends of the spectrum, this perspective actually meshes beautifully with our Universalist heritage. The core tenet of Universalism is that God loves everyone, and specifically back in the day when belief in heaven and hell were the norm, that that meant God sent everyone to heaven. So the Universalists came to a very similar

conclusion – since we were all going to be saved, the focus can shift from trying to earn a good afterlife, to living a good life now.

Humanism, our theme for this month of March, takes things a step further, of course, and places responsibility for creating the best possible here and now on us human beings. And that's a pretty awesome responsibility – awesome responsibility, both in the sense of being amazing cool, and in the sense of being amazingly large and serious. Most of have probably seen the quote incorrectly attributed to Gandhi: "Be the change you want to see in the world." Gandhi's actual quote was

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Commitment to Humanity: Now More than Ever

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

Many of us continue to feel frightened and vulnerable in the wake of Donald Trump's inauguration as President of the United States. We're fearful for the values we hold dear, the vulnerable populations we are committed to protect, what shape our own lives may take, and for the future of our nation itself. There is reason to feel that way: Muslims, people of color, women, the entire LGBTQ community, immigrants (particularly but not exclusively Middle Easterners and Mexicans), those who "look Middle Eastern," are all threatened based on who they are rather than on

anything they might have done. Now more than ever, we need to stand together against the forces that seek to divide us. All of us—each and every one of us—stands to lose if the forces of exclusion, oppression, and division prevail.

Humanism and religion are fundamentally in accord on this basic point. Many people equate humanism with either secularism or atheism. While some humanists are either secularists or atheists, not all are. Some humanists are anti-religious, but not all are. Humanism is a thread that has been woven into the fabric of religion for centuries, and continues to be. Christian humanism was born in the Renaissance. Today there are vibrant humanistic emphases in most of humankind's religious

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Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

Services begin at 10:45 am March Theme :: Humanism

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

Sunday, March 5 Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd	Piano Dedication Sunday - Please join us on this special Piano Dedication Sunday, where we will have a ceremony and several special musical offerings to celebrate the arrival of our new piano! We will also kick off this month's theme of Humanism, so it should be a special day.
Sunday, March 12 Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd	Rev. Seth continues exploring March's theme of Humanism with an in-depth look at the different kinds of Humanism, and how they provide the foundation for much of Unitarian Universalism today.
Sunday, March 19 Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd	Rev. Seth concludes our exploration of Humanism – see Friday eBlast for sermon details.
Saturday, March 26 Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd	Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd will be our guest minister.

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

Sunday, March 5 Social Action Sunday	This morning our children & youth will be making homemade dog and cat treats to sell after the service next Sunday, March 12, as a fundraiser for Animal Rescue Fund (ARF).
Sunday, March 12 Curriculum Sunday	Join us as we continue our religious exploration!
Sunday, March 19 Curriculum Sunday	Join us as we continue our religious exploration!
Sunday, March 26 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 – Indigo room Landscapes of Aging and Spirituality	Rev. Julia leads 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 – Humanism

Selecting a theme for our worship services each month allows us to explore specific important theological topics in greater breadth, while also challenging us to go deeper. If you have a reading, poem or personal story to share that relates to our current or upcoming theme, please e-mail them to Rev. Seth.

Sacred Text

Our sacred text this month is an excerpt from “Love as the Ethical Basis” by Rev. Ginger Luke, an essay found in Humanist Voices in Unitarian Universalism:

“I grew up close to the land in the Sand Hills of Nebraska. My father would take me for walks across the prairies and call out the names of the grasses like blue grama and sand bluestem. He would lean down, pick a blade, and chew on it. We spent hours working in the family garden, planting and harvesting peas, radishes, strawberries, green beans and wax beans, carrots, tomatoes, and potatoes. I remember picking the potato bugs off the potato plants. We hiked through the wild roses under the pines and oaks as we walked down to a little lake below our house, where we found pasqueflowers in the early spring, followed by wild asparagus and, later, the cattails and arrowhead rushes. The little lake was fed by the Minnechaduz Creek, which flowed into the Niobrara River. We canoed on the Niobrara, above where it flowed into the Missouri.

I always knew I was part of that natural world. The idea that human beings and nature were two separate things would have perplexed me. The world was filled with mystery, but a mystery of which I was a part. You couldn’t walk out of it, because you were in it and it in you.

There was great power for creation and destruction in the world I grew up in, but the power was not conscious, planning, or manipulating. This power invited exploration and discovery; it elicited awe as well as caution. And I was a part of it because I was a human being. Everyone else was a part of it, too.

In that amazing sense of place, I experienced love. It was the ethical basis for the life of the people in my family. I was unconditionally loved. You know our human hardwired trait of always reaching out to help someone if they are falling or tripping beside us? That’s the world I grew up in. If you slipped, someone helped you. If something was heavy, people helped you carry it. We were a part of the natural world, and we respected that world and valued each other. And if that weren’t so, as I looked out at the world, I knew it was because people were oblivious to their harmfulness or were hurt or afraid.

The love I experienced was created, given, and received by people. It shaped how I cared about people, helped them,

yearned to learn more about those I had never known, and thought of those who came before me and would come after me. We were creating the best world we could, and our actions were motivated by our image of the world that might be. The world was in process, and our job was to participate the best way we could.”

Questions for Reflection

What is the grounding for your ethics/values/beliefs?

What is the role and place of human beings in our grand universe when we consider that which gives our lives meaning? What is the human role in creating and finding meaning?

Suggested Sermons

“The Humanist in Me” – Rev. Bruce Clear

<https://goo.gl/kil0Yj>

“Humanist Reverence” – Rev. Howard Dana

<https://goo.gl/3SIIIV>

Spiritual Practice or Reflective Practice

Find a piece of paper and a pen or pencil and create a mind map to the best of your abilities that traces the origin of ideas that are central to your ethical and belief system. A mind map is simply a series of circles, with words or phrases inside them, connected by lines, which creates a map of ideas. See if you can trace the origins of different parts of your system of ideas and beliefs, and see which came from your family, which from a particular church or other religious institution you attended, which from books or reading, etc.

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

*Nadine Tringali,
Director of Religious Education*



Social Action Sunday :: March 5

This morning our youth will be making homemade dog and cat treats to sell after the service on Sunday, March 12. This fundraiser is supporting Animal Rescue Fund (ARF), a locally run animal shelter that provides shelter, medical care, and love to 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](#).

Multigenerational Workshop :: March 5, 12:15 pm Origami Boxes and Animals

Please plan to attend our Multi-Gen Workshop in the fellowship hall from 12:15-1:15. Last month at our "Origami" workshop, everyone who attended enjoyed learning how to create a lidded box out of two pieces of paper. This month we will continue creating boxes, using a one-piece design with double-sided paper. For our younger artists, we will have directions for creating all sorts of animals!

Nadine

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.

Youth Programs News!

*Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd,
Coordinator of Youth Programs*

On the southern Arizona border, there is a wall. There is one large break in the wall. It is at the most treacherous part of the Sonoran Desert. The wall was not finished here because it is so dangerous to cross the border along this route. However, rather than deterring people from crossing, this partial wall merely funnels people into the most dangerous terrain. Every year groups of people cross. Every year many people die trying to reach this country.

In this time, when there is so much discussion about building a wall along the border, this is what I think about. I think about the hundreds of people who are found dead along the border each year. And I think of the people of No More Deaths, a humanitarian group that was founded by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson, who offers aid to those crossing the border. They leave water, food, socks and other needed supplies in the desert. They provide medical care to people as they journey. They save lives.

In the last few years, as the national Unitarian Universalist Association has looked deeply at Immigration reform as a moral issue, many of us have learned about this part of the border. Many UUs have built or deepened relationships with people in Arizona who are actively working to reform this broken system and bring more humanity and love to the way in which we treat people. In so doing, the Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice has developed a trip, open to UU youth and adults alike, that explores the topics of immigration and human rights in a hands on and face-to-face experiential way. This trip has been taken by countless UUs from across the country in the last few years. Testimonies of those I know who have been on this trip have been moving.

In June of 2018, I hope to take some of our youth on this trip. During the next year and a half, the high school youth will raise money for the journey. They will also learn more about the complex immigration system and the ways in which US policy contributes to the conditions in Mexico that causes so many people to seek a better life here. They will prepare for this journey financially, mentally, [\(continued on page 11\)](#)

Splinters from the Board

Exploring faith. Practicing Inclusivity. Living Justice.

You may have heard that UUCM will have an intern minister next year! At our November Board meeting, after two interviews and thorough discussion, the Board voted to create and offer a Ministerial Internship to **Joel Tishken** next year. Joel is a seminary student at Earlham School of Religion in Richmond, IN, training to become a UU minister. Completing an academic year of internship at a UU church is a UUA requirement toward becoming a minister, and Joel is now at this step in his process. UUCM has been a teaching congregation for three interns in the last 15 years or so; the Board considers this role part of our mission to further the cause of Unitarian Universalism.

Interning with an hour-long commute will allow Joel and his wife to remain in Richmond, IN where she is employed, a high priority for them. We expect the benefits to be mutual, as ministerial interns often help to develop programs, lead classes, provide pastoral care, and bring an additional voice and different perspective to the pulpit. The board agreed to a \$10,000 stipend for Joel for 10 months of full-time work, beginning on August 15th. This is a ridiculously low amount, but churches that can offer an internship are few and far between. Students often look for placement near their home to avoid uprooting their family or the cost of renting a home away from home. We are raising these funds through special donations and are grateful to those who can and do give generously. An Internship Committee is being formed with **Kirk Robey** graciously agreeing to serve as its chair; its members will provide feedback and evaluations to Joel. Rev. Seth will be his supervisor.

Ministry is a second career for Joel, after spending 20 years studying and teaching history, with a focus on world religions, most recently at Washington State University in Pullman, WA. He's been a member and board member of UU congregations in Georgia and Ohio, and has attended services at UUCM several times. You may have already seen and met him; we encourage you to get to know him when you have the chance. Keep an eye out for announcements about his formal introduction to the congregation in August!

Holly Hanauer, President

Roots & Wings and New Member Joining Ceremony

Interested in becoming a member? Just looking to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and our church? Long-time member looking for a refresher? Everyone is invited to attend our "Roots & Wings" class, which will be offered on Sunday, March 12th, at 9:15am in the Yellow Room. For those who are interested in becoming members, there will be a New Member Joining Ceremony the following week, Sunday, March 19th, at 10:15am in the sanctuary. Attendance at Roots & Wings is generally required before becoming a member – we offer it every month now, so if you can't make it this month, look for the April dates in the next Unigram!

New Freethinker Friendly Task Force

The Board has appointed a Freethinker Friendly Task Force to oversee the application to the UU Humanist Association to become a Freethinker Friendly congregation. A Freethinker Friendly congregation is one which explicitly welcomes atheists/non-theists in its welcoming statement, discusses ways to become more welcoming in language and rituals, offers celebration and recognition of the humanist worldview, and reaches out to the wider non-theistic community. **Jerry McKean** is serving as the liaison between the Board and Task Force.



"Humanism" Harshman Panel
Photo by Gunther Cartwright

Stewardship In Action

2017-18 Stewardship Campaign

Congratulations – as of February 28 your campaign has reached 70% of goal

Current campaign total is \$199,048 – 70%

Campaign goal is \$286,000

Campaign outstanding balance is \$86,952

We Are Stewards In Action

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

PLEDGING – NEXT ROUND

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

We are passionate in doing, caring and responsibilities giving numerous hours and much talent. We must be as passionate on our pledge responsibility for the financial sanctity and viability of our church.

If you missed turning in your completed pledge form during February, ***we definitely will still accept it.*** Still need a pledge form? Green Pledge forms are located on a foyer table – look for our campaign Goal Jar. [Or download the form here.](#) Complete and return to church office, either in person or mail. If your pledge was not received in February, we will contact you during March.

This excerpt from **Holly Hanauer's** testimonial serves as a reminder of why we give:

“But what I really want to say is that I hope you all have a sense, deep in your bones, of a strong foundation of love and goodness here that strengthens you. I hope you all trust that you can open your heart here, and that you will be held in our hearts when you most need it. And I hope that we will all continue to open our minds to each other, sharing ideas, listening to each other, learning together and stretching ourselves individually and as a community. I belong here. My whole self can belong here. This is why I give my time and my treasure. Please join me in giving as generously as you are able. Thank you.”

WE ARE STEWARDS IN ACTION – OUR CHURCH ROCKS!

Contact a member of the Stewardship committee with questions: **Nan Barber** (744-5295), **Lynn Hale** (284-3813), **Linda McKean** (288-5052), **Ron Moore** (620-3956), **Katie Frederick** (808-1601)

Financial News

You can help our bookkeeper apply your pledge payments and other gifts to the proper account by including a note with your check or by a notation on the memo line (i.e. 2016-17 Pledge, 2017-18 Pledge, Dedicated Offering, Muncie OUTreach, Food Pantry, etc.). Payments received with no account indication will be applied to the current pledge year/general fund.

Sign up anytime to have automatic payments deducted monthly from your checking or savings account. Forms are available [on the website](#), on the table in front of the office, or by emailing uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org.

You can also make cash payments to your pledge (or for other giving) and receive an annual statement for tax purposes by using our Cash Donation envelopes found on the table in front of the office. Please completely fill out the information on the envelope to receive proper credit. Envelopes can be dropped in the collection baskets or in the lock box in the church office.

Text-to-Give is now available on Sunday mornings (easy instructions available in the order of service) to contribute to the Loose Offering or Dedicated Offering for that day. We do not accept pledge payments via this method.

Adding a Second Service: This Month's Update

At the post-service meeting on Sunday, January 22, **Bea Sousa**, the co-chair of the Two Services Task Force, explained that the group had decided to make a “yes” recommendation on trying a second service and was working toward creating a proposal for the congregation to review. Our [February Unigram article](#) detailed our thought-process, and many of the reasons why we hope you will join us in considering this a project worthy of trying beginning next fall. If you missed the presentation, we encourage you to read the article; in the meantime, we wanted to share with you the remaining steps in the process.

Discussing the Church Growth Readings

Most importantly right now, so that we can all learn about the broader topic of church growth, the task force will be leading several hour-long discussion sessions in the next month. The sessions will be centered around the readings task force members did last summer as they explored the future of our church. Please read up, and join in!

The first two meetings will focus on the central chapters from the three most important books. These “church growth chapters” were distributed at the presentation on January 22, and additional copies are available on the table outside the church office for anyone who still needs one.

Then, for those who want to delve in further, participants can read *The In-Between Church* and/or *The Myth of the 200 Barrier* and come talk about the key points and how they relate to our church situation. The Board has purchased 10 extra copies of each book to make them more accessible to members of the congregation – just ask in the Church office to borrow a copy.

Church Growth Chapter Discussions – Sunday, March 5, 9:30am; Sunday, March 12, 12:15pm

Chapter 7 of [The Myth of the 200 Barrier: How to Lead through Transitional Growth](#) by Kevin E. Martin

Chapters 1 and 2 of [The In-Between Church: Navigating Size Transitions in Congregations](#) by Alice Mann.

Chapter 2 of [Raising the Roof: The Pastoral-to-Program Size Transition](#) by Alice Mann

*Copies of these chapters are available on the table outside the church office – feel free to pick one up at any time. Even if you cannot attend a discussion, please read the church growth chapters so that you can make an **informed** vote at the May 21 congregational meeting.*

Book Discussion I: The In-Between Church

Sunday, March 19, 12:15 – 1:15

Discussion of the book [The In-Between Church: Navigating Size Transitions in Congregations](#) by Alice Mann

Book Discussion II: The Myth of the 200 Barrier Sunday, March 26, 12:15 – 1:15

Discussion of the book [The Myth of the 200 Barrier: How to Lead through Transitional Growth](#) by Kevin E. Martin.

Reminder: Copies of both books are available at the church office to borrow and read prior to the book discussions!

Fundraising for the One-Year Experiment

Instead of burdening what is always a tight budget and potentially impacting the funding for other programs, the Two Services Task Force will be asking for commitments for special one-time gifts/donations to fund the extra expense of adding a second service for one year. The gifts would be contingent on the congregation voting “yes” for the trial on May 21. The goal is to raise \$12,000 independently, so that we can continue to fund other opportunities and our salary expenditures through the next year. Should the congregation decide in spring of 2018 to continue with two services, this added expense would be incorporated into the yearly budget.

At this point, we already have **\$1,000** in pledged monies. Please contact **Bea Sousa**, **Jerry McKean**, or **Rev. Seth** if you would like to make a gift to the cause of moving our church forward in this trial.

The Proposal, Proposal Reviews, and the Vote: Dates to Know

The Two Services Task Force will be mailing a copy of their **proposal** in a special issue of the Unigram at the **beginning of April**.

On **Sunday, April 9** at 12:15 there will be a **review of the proposal** so the task force can solicit suggestions for revision.

On **Sunday, May 7** at 12:15 there will be a **final proposal review**, after final revisions have been made by the task force.

Finally, on **Sunday, May 21** the **Congregational Meeting and vote** on the proposal will be held after the service.

Please contact us with any questions or concerns, and we

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Piano Dedication Service March 5!

James Helton, Director of Music

Our new Yamaha grand piano has arrived in time for dedication and celebration on March 5! Come prepared to sing with your new piano and to hear lots of music for 2 hands, 4 hands (with me and **Holly Hanauer**), 2 hands and a saxophone (with my friend, Ball State saxophone professor Nathan Bogert) and with many singers (our UU Choir).

As many of you know, in record time we raised all of the money we needed to purchase a new Yamaha DC7XE3 PRO piano (pictured above) for our sanctuary. The Piano Fundraising Committee had set a goal of \$60,000 so that we could cover the \$51,000 cost of the piano, plus put \$9,000 into a seed "Piano Maintenance Fund" - and we reached and exceeded that goal. If you would like to know more about the specs of the piano, or the details of price and trade in of our Yamaha C7, I will be happy to provide that information. Many thanks to the incredibly generous donors who helped make this happen!



Why a new piano?

I bid a sentimental farewell to our current (as I write this) Yamaha piano. It served us incredibly well, and I boasted that it was the best piano in town off of the Ball State campus. It is a Yamaha model C7 built in 1967, making it almost 50 years old. Unfortunately, the piano no longer held tune well, strings were beginning to break with regularity, and many of its felt hammers were worn beyond use. This is not surprising, as typically a grand piano undergoes major refurbishment/overhaul about every 30 years at a cost of approximately \$35,000, and our piano had never undergone such work. Unfortunately, there's no guarantee as to the quality of the piano's sound with a major refurbishment – it could come out sounding great, or terrible – which is a pretty significant risk when investing that amount of money. Our beloved piano had at best a 1-2 year lifespan before it would no longer provide adequate sound for our needs.

Why this particular piano?

We enlisted a small committee of experienced music ears – **Mary Johnson Robey**, **Caroline Sullivan**, and myself – to visit our long-time, trusted piano repair/piano sales company, Piano Solutions, Inc., which is based in Carmel, IN. Mary, Caroline, and I played all the pianos they had available for sale, and this particular piano was our committee's unanimous selection as best in the showroom. Mary and I even made a special return trip to check one more time, and they came away convinced that this piano was the best choice for our congregation. It is the current model of our original Yamaha piano.

I am ever mindful that, while I play this piano, this instrument is for the church and, with proper care and maintenance, it should be around for generations. More than anything, I hope that it gives joy to our congregation, and that it enhances our worship experience beyond all expectations. Again, thank you for your support of the piano, and for the music program at our church.

The Responsibilities of Being Human

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

a little bit more subtle and nuanced than that, but we like the quote, as adapted for bumper stickers and memes, because it challenges us to action, and it gives us power and agency. It could also probably be a Humanist slogan, if Humanism were to have a slogan. “Be the change” puts the responsibility directly on each of us to make the world a better place.

There’s little that Unitarian Universalism and Unitarian Universalists as a whole group of people agree on, but that we’re responsible for and focused on the here and now comes about as close as we get to one of our places of agreement. If this is generally true for us, my wondering then, is: how seriously do we take this responsibility? I know that most of us feel responsible for and work for justice in the world on some broader level. For most of us though, active work to heal the broader world is still a comparatively smaller part of our overall lives, at least in terms of time spent. It’s not that it’s not important to us, but still, the money to pay bills has to come from somewhere, so most of us have to or have had to spend a great deal of time working in our lives. And we spend time eating and preparing food, and spending time with our friends and families. And then there’s our hobbies and leisure activities, and let’s not forget sleep.

So I assume that those of who subscribe to this Humanist notion of our lives being focused on, and us being responsible for the present – I assume that we take up that mantle of responsibility in part by doing social justice work to help heal the world. But the rest of the time. All the other things we do. I wonder, do we bring that same sense of responsibility for creating the just, equitable, compassionate, caring world we dream of and value? Specifically, do we take the time in our lives, on a regular basis, to reflect on our choices and behaviors in the world, and see how they are impacting our own happiness as well as others?

I don’t think most human beings often, if ever, make choices that they think are going to be directly harmful to ourselves or to other people. Most of us usually think we are making the best decision possible, given the information we have at hand and what our life experience tells us about how the world works. And

yet all the time, we make decisions that are harmful to ourselves and others, decisions that cause hurt and pain and sadness – myself included. I generally do my best to be a good human being – a good minister, a good husband, a good father, a good son, a good brother, a good citizen, a good friend. And yet I also know I fall short sometimes. An unnecessarily harsh or judgmental word or thought spoke aloud here, a brief snap or lose of my temper towards my kids there. Despite my best efforts and frequent successes, the times I fall short still occur with irritating frequency. I try to make amends when I realize that I have done wrong. And, too often – not always, but too often, and I don’t think I’m alone in this – I wait for a corrective, a push back from the outside world, before those amends are offered.

So one of the challenges of Humanism to us, as I see it, is to take responsibility and hold ourselves accountable for our choices, actions and behaviors on a scale both large and small. We know all about the bigger picture social justice work. And, the day-to-day is equally important as well. The deep responsibility for the here and now of humanism calls not just to wait until someone else informs us that we’ve done something that causes harm, but instead, to regularly and proactively take time to reflect on our choices and actions, to seek and solicit feedback from those around us, so that we might continue to learn how to make better choices every day in the world. Perfection is not the goal, but growth and learning and fully taking responsibility for our choices, the good and bad, is. Humanism calls us to a deep sense of responsibility for the world, for ourselves, and for our lives. May we continue to do our best to consciously and intentionally live that responsibility into being.

See you in church!

peace, love and blessings,

Rev. Seth



Commitment to Humanity: Now More than Ever

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

and spiritual traditions.

It's worth reviewing both our Sources and our Principles in this context, since for many of us in our beloved community, neither remains in the forefront of our minds a lot of the time [I'm including myself here.] Religion and humanism flow together in our values and commitments; both our Sources and our Principles can encourage, guide, and support us in the difficult work that lies ahead.

We Unitarian Universalists draw on Sources that sink our roots deeply into both religious and spiritual traditions and humanism: In addition to our direct experience of the wonder and mystery of life, we draw on not just one religious or spiritual path, but all of them. While Jewish and Christian teachings receive their own bullet point in the Sources, they do not stand alone. While they may hold a privileged place for some of us, they do not for all of us. The humanist sources on which we draw remind us that faith and reason need not contradict each other, and warn us against idolatries and demagogueries of all sorts.

Our Principles too reflect values that are common to both humanism and religion. Adherents of some faith traditions, or of certain interpretations of them, may quarrel with some of our Principles. Even among ourselves, interpretations vary widely, and our own interpretations may change as we grow. Some humanists may not fully embrace the emphasis on spiritual growth mentioned in the third principle. Adherents of religious traditions such as the one in which I was raised tend to emphasize human sinfulness and depravity over the inherent worth and dignity of all people. That being said, the overall thrust of the Principles is one that those who identify as religious, spiritual or humanistic can hold in high esteem:

Our affirmation of the inherent worth and dignity of all persons leads directly to the importance of justice, equity and compassion in our relationships. This unites religious people and humanists in their opposition to deporting people because of who they are or where they come from. It also mandates standing against human trafficking, abuse, and a host of other issues on which

those in both groups agree. Our emphasis on acceptance helps make our faith communities safe places for a wide variety of people. It also encourages us to be open to diversity, to learning from the paths of others whose vision may be very different from our own. In this climate, religion and humanism can enrich each other. Our emphasis on a free and responsible search for truth and meaning, widely shared by humanists and progressive religious and spiritual traditions alike, stands against demagoguery and heavy-handed authoritarianism of all types.

Many religious persons and humanists alike can agree on the importance of extending the use of the democratic process as widely as possible. For many of us, this is a key factor in shaping a world of peace, liberty and justice that extends to all people. And that community extends beyond just people to embrace the entire web of existence. We humans do not live in isolation, but as one element in a vast, interconnected web of life.

Our richness lies in our diversity and our inclusion, in our strength and in our compassion, our hope in our ongoing commitment to the values that protect and uplift all. In my mind, religion and humanism are not adversaries. They are partners on a common quest. People who draw their sense of meaning from religion or spirituality, and those who draw it from immersion in the world of humanity and nature – are human beings, people, before we are either humanist or religious. We seek lives of meaning, value, and purpose, however we define that.

Rev. Julia



Youth News! *(continued from page 4)***Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd**

emotionally and spiritually. And then, they will be transformed by what they experience together.

Service Journeys have the ability to completely change a young person. They are given the chance to meet and get to know people very unlike themselves. They can inspire a young person in ways that learning from home or at church cannot. By meeting the people whose lives are affected by our immigration system, they gain insight into it in ways that they never could from Muncie. Learning about another perspective is invaluable, especially to young people.

I hope that you will consider coming to our biweekly fundraiser lunches this spring, starting in March. They will be on 2nd and 4th Sundays, right after church. I hope that you will also consider giving a donation to the Service Journey Fund. This trip will make a significant impact on our youth, who will in turn make a significant impact on the world. Your contributions could make this possible.

March Schedule

Sunday, March 12, 12-2pm - Joint Youth Group and Service Journey Fundraiser Pizza Lunch!

Sunday, March 26, 12-2pm - Joint Youth Group and Service Journey Fundraiser Pizza Lunch!

CONS!

Please let Elizabeth know ASAP if you are interested in attending one of these amazing events!

April 7-9 - Middle School Election CON at UUCTC in West Lafayette, Indiana

April 21-23 - Senior High Bridging CON at TJUC in Louisville, Kentucky

Elizabeth**Adding a Second Service:****This Month's Update** *(continued from page 7)*

hope to see many of you at the discussion groups! And please, even if you can't make any of the discussions, take the time to read the three chapters that are available on the table outside the office. As our most recent elections have shown, it is crucially important that our votes are informed votes. We hope you'll take the time to make sure you're fully informed about this important decision our congregation will be making that will have a significant impact on our future.

Respectfully submitted,

Your 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, Statistics janaysander@yahoo.com

Susan Taylor, Publicity susantaylor68@hotmail.com

Adult Discussion Group

Sundays at 9:30 am – Red room

March 5 – Refugees and Immigrants

Leslie Duvall will start the conversation as we talk about refugee and immigrant policies, attitudes, and reactions.

March 12 – Voting Rights

Alice Bennett will lead as we talk about voting rights, the limitations states have been putting on voting, and how this relates to our UU Principles.

March 19 – The Creation Museum

Bob LaFrance visited the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky, founded by the famous creationist Ken Ham and operated by the organization Answers In Genesis. Come hear about his experience.

March 26 – Humanism

We'll discuss the monthly theme, Humanism. What it means, how it works in real life, and how it compares to our UU Principles.

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 March 22.



Stewardship's Gratitude Shout Out

Giving a Shout Out to these wonderful folks who helped make Stewardship Sunday a big success. A delicious feast of finger foods and delicacies was pulled together by **Caroline Sullivan, Ginny Nilles, Susan Calvin, Lisa Dwenger, Sue Errington, Susan Magrath, and Gunther Cartwright**. Thanks to each of you! We couldn't have done it without you!

You are each Stewards in Action – You Rock!



Dear Friends, Please accept my gratitude for your many kindnesses that have kept me out of a nursing home – these are friends, not family: **Lynn & Chuck Austin, Alice Bennett, Donna Fierce, Sam Harris, Carol Gardiner, Marnee Cooley, Lynn Hale, Nan & John Barber, John McKillip, Bea & Lynn Sousa, Judy, Tom & Liz Lowe, Cindy Peters, Bruce Perkins, J.P. Redmond, Caroline Sullivan, Paul & Jackie Stout**. *Sincerely, Grace Reef*



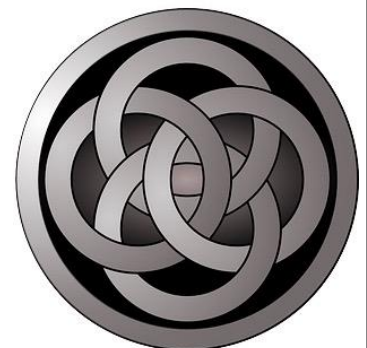
Much thanks and appreciation to our **Youth**, for putting on such a fantastic Sunday service for us on February 26th. Your challenge to us all to be present to and face our fears was wonderful, and meaningful for everyone in attendance. Special thanks to **Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd**, our Coordinator of Youth Programming, for her assistance and leadership in the entire process. You all were awesome!

The Youth Service this year was planned and executed by: **Sarah Bartlett, Taegan Carpenter, Iris Chalk, Anna Dillinger, Eloise McKean, Graham Reeder, Josh Sander, Adam Schuler, Riley Taylor, and Sophie Taylor**.

Special Thanks to: **Bryce Taylor** for his musical accompaniment, **Jim Helton** for helping to plan the music, **Sights and Sounds** for helping to mic us and **our parents** for shuttling us to the church for all of the planning meetings!

Wheel of Life

If you have a major life event you'd like the church community to be aware of, please submit it to uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org and note "Wheel of Life" in the subject line.



March 2017 UUCM Calendar

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

Regular Weekly Events

Adult Discussion Group	Sundays	9:30 am
Muncie UU Pagans	Sundays	9:30 am
Inquirer's Series (beginning March 19)	Sundays	9:30 am
Worship Service	Sundays	10:45 am – noon
Religious Education for Children & Youth	Sundays	10:45 am – noon
OWL 7-10 th Grade	Sundays	2:15 – 3:45 pm
Body Life Dinner	Tuesdays	6:00 – 7:30 pm
Finding Spirit :: Transgender Support Group	Tuesdays	7:00 pm
Choir Rehearsal	Tuesdays	7:30 pm
Revival Hour (see web calendar for location)	Wednesdays	5:30 pm
Muncie OUTreach LGBTQ Youth Drop In	Fridays	5:00 – 8:00 pm

March Events & Activities

Choir Rehearsal	Sunday	March 5	9:30 am
Church Growth Discussions	Sunday	March 5	9:30 am
Visitors Q&A	Sunday	March 5	12:15 pm
Multi-Gen Workshop :: Origami	Sunday	March 5	12:15 pm
Theme Reflections	Sunday	March 5	12:30 pm
Committee on Ministries Focus Group	Sunday	March 5	12:30 pm
Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force	Monday	March 6	7:00 pm
Board Meeting: Long Range Planning	Wednesday	March 8	4:00 pm
Pastoral Associates	Wednesday	March 8	6:00 pm
Program Council	Wednesday	March 8	7:00 pm
Roots & Wings New Member Class	Sunday	March 12	9:15 am
Landscapes of Aging and Spirituality	Sunday	March 12	9:30 am
Youth Group Pizza Fundraiser	Sunday	March 12	Noon
Chalice Marketplace	Sunday	March 12	9:30 am & Noon
Church Growth Discussions	Sunday	March 12	12:15 pm
New Member Dinner	Sunday	March 12	5:00 pm
Social Justice Committee	Monday	March 13	7:00 pm
Membership Committee	Tuesday	March 14	11:00 am
Stewardship Committee	Tuesday	March 14	5:00 pm
Communications Committee	Tuesday	March 14	6:30 pm
Board of Trustees	Wednesday	March 15	6:30 pm
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	March 16	7:15 pm
OWL 7-10 Lock In	Saturday	March 18	Noon
New Member Joining Ceremony	Sunday	March 19	10:15 am
Soup Lunch	Sunday	March 19	Noon
Adult Discussion Committee	Sunday	March 19	12:15 pm
Church Growth Discussions	Sunday	March 19	12:15 pm
Unigram Submission Deadline	Wednesday	March 22	9:00 am
Two Services Task Force	Thursday	March 23	7:00 pm
Sack Lunch Prep for Harvest Soup Kitchen	Sunday	March 26	9:30 am
Youth Group Pizza Fundraiser	Sunday	March 26	Noon
Church Growth Discussions	Sunday	March 26	12:15 pm

Stay After Church for Lunch and Support Our Youth

The Youth Program is planning to bring our high school aged youth on a UU College of Social Justice (UUCSJ) Service Journey to the US/Mexico Border in June of 2018. Information about this journey can be found [here](#).

We will be organizing fundraiser lunches on 2nd and 4th Sundays, right after church. Join us for pizza and salad, donate what you can and support this important program for our youth!

UU Book Group

The next UU book group meeting we will be reading *The Nightingale*, by Kristin Hannah. We will be at the home of Annemarie Voss on March 9th, at 7:00 p.m. Any interested reader is welcome to join us.

COMING SOON:

The Inquirers Series

This eight session series will begin March 19th. It is designed for newcomers, new members, and long time members who want to know more about the church. Keep an eye out for more details.

UUCM Staff & Leadership

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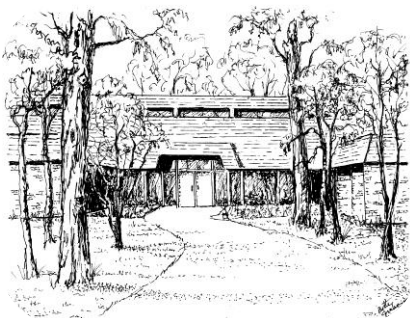
Past President

765.288.9561 | uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org | www.uuchurchmuncie.org

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

Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie

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