



the UNIGRAM

Connect

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

"Uh-oh! The delivery person left my picnic table in the *front* yard!" Kristen Schnell, of Austin, Texas, had certainly meant for it to be delivered to her *back* yard where her family planned to use it. Nevertheless, there it sat. Then she had an idea. What if she left it where the delivery person put it? What if her family moved some of their usually-indoor activities like homework, reading, and just hanging out from inside the house to their front yard? She painted the table a brilliant turquoise and later on sat down at her table. A neighbor whom she had not met, despite living three houses apart, stopped by. Her turquoise table became more and more a focus for neighborhood gatherings. Eventually,

she founded theturquoisetable.com with the goal of enabling more people to connect in this easy, casual way. She's also written a book, *The Turquoise Table*. I recently read the account of her venture in the June issue of *Good Housekeeping*.

Like Schnell, I remember growing up in a neighborhood in which residents were "front yard people" who routinely spent time outdoors, in their front yards, where everyday interactions with neighbors and friends happened easily. As time has gone on, we're become both "indoor people" and "back yard people." May people are rarely outdoors unless they are

(continued on page 6)

In This Issue

Sunday Mornings 2

Theme Exploration 3

Religious Education News 4

Splinters from the Board 5

July Calendar 9

Continuing the Journey

Jerry McKean, President of the Congregation

"Religion is nearly always the experience of twice-born, the second birth, the new creation, the reprieve, and the renewal." —Rev. Peter Gomes

Rev. Julia is leading a monthly discussion of spirituality and aging. One of the frequent questions arising in the reading and discussion is, "Is there life after retirement?"

One of the reasons that my answer is an unequivocal yes is this church. The joy, passion, kindness, and love I have found here inspire and motivate me. The conviction that our church matters-- both to us and to the community—challenges and instructs me. Our

discussions sometimes become pretty intense, and the tongue biting can get a little painful, but we learn to blend unconditional love with skepticism, acceptance with accountability, and deepest beliefs with their own transcendence in fellowship. How comforting! How scary! How classy!

On July 1, I will take office as president of this congregation. This is one of those things that I would never have predicted would or could happen. How did I get to this place in my life?

I came to this church with the certainty that I need to be part of something greater than myself to make it. I need something to believe in, not in the sense of affirming untestable statements about a deity or deities, but in the sense of

(continued on page 7)

Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

Services begin at 10:45 am Summer Theme :: Faith in Action

Sunday, July 2 Michael William Doyle	“‘The People, Yes,’: Populism as It Was, as It Is, as It Could Be”
Sunday, July 9 Brandon Mundell	“American Documents”
Sunday, July 16 Jason Donati	R.A.C.E. (Reconciliation Achieved through Community Engagement) started in 2015. Its mission and focus is to promote healing and inclusivity through community dialogue and engagement while celebrating our diversity in Muncie. Today’s message will ask you to leave your comfort zone to explore the historical implications of racism and white fragility, and suggest ways we can all contribute to a better Muncie.
Sunday, July 23 Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer	“In Which We Live and Move and Have Our Being” Our relationship with the natural world and its other inhabitants is essentially a spiritual one, however we choose to live that out in practice. It concerns what we care deeply about, what the ground of our being is, what we regard as worthy of our deepest care, concern and respect. The natural world is that in which we “live and move and have our being.”
Sunday, July 30 Rev. Bruce Russell-Jayne	“Oil on Our Hands” Rev. Bruce Russell-Jayne (UU Retired), Global Warming rabble rouser, will preach about changing the corrupt practices of oil companies and governments and moving to sustainable practices.

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

Sunday, July 2 UU World Travelers	Our RE Summer Program begins ~ <i>UU World Travelers</i> ! John, Susan, and Sophie Taylor will be our “tour guides” for Brazil!
Sunday, July 9 UU World Travelers	Usha Shivaswamy will be our “tour guide” for India!
Sunday, July 16 UU World Travelers	Pam Harwood and Coly Tabberson will be our “tour guides” for Australia!
Sunday, July 23 UU World Travelers	Jennifer, Carter, and Kendall Hollems will be our “tour guides” for Mexico!
Sunday, July 30 UU World Travelers	Lisa Kuriscak will be our “tour guide” for Spain!

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 s a chance for people with various personal beliefs to get together and openly discuss a variety of topics. Check the weekly eBlast for weekly topics.
Every Sunday – Violet room Muncie UU Pagans	This is an open discussion group to explore the differences in our pagan traditions. People of any belief are welcome.
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.

Summer Sundays

Each summer for the seven weeks Rev. Seth is on study leave/vacation, worship associates plan and manage Sunday services. This year, between July 2 and August 13, our theme will be “Faith in Action,” a broad umbrella under which we will address the issues of populism (July 2), immigration (July 7), race (July 16), the environment (July 23 and 30), reproductive justice (August 6), and incarceration (August 13).

In the pulpit will be a wide variety of speakers, ranging from our own members (**Tania Said**, **Michael Doyle**, and **Brandon Mundell**), community representatives (**Jason Donati**), our own clergy (**Revs. Elizabeth and Julia**), retired UU clergy (**Rev. Bruce Russell-Jayne**) and representatives of the Indiana Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

Join us when you are in town for thought provoking reflections on topics that impact our lives at many levels. Consider these words from Rev. Sunshine Jeremiah Wolfe, who spoke several times in our pulpit:

This is a congregation that gathers in faith. Not faith in one religion or one god or any one way. We gather in faith of the power of diversity, the power of love, and the hope of a world transformed by our care. We gather in faith in ourselves and those around us. Not a faith that requires perfection or rightness in one another. Rather, a faith that in our shared imperfection we may learn to stumble and fall together. Faith that we will help one another to rise and to try again and again. We are Unitarian Universalists.



2017-18 Themes

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 an upcoming theme, please e-mail them to Rev. Seth seth@uuchurchmuncie.org.

September – Welcome

October – Story

November – Abundance

December – Hope

January – Intention

February – Perseverance

March – Balance

April – Emergence

May – Risk

June – Blessing

Religious Education Corner

*Nadine Tringali,
Director of Religious Education*

Our Summer RE Program, *UU World Travelers*, begins!

Our Summer RE Program will be facilitated by **Jackie Knake**! Each week we will "tour" a different country, learning about the culture, religion and history through a variety of activities. The class will meet for eight consecutive Sundays beginning on July 2, and will run during the Sunday service in the Yellow Room. The curriculum is designed for K-5th grade youth. Youth in 6th-12th grades are invited to participate, assist, or attend the service; preschool youth are welcome to attend with a parent. Childcare will be available in the Blue Room.

Summer RE Program Schedule

July 2	John, Susan, and Sophie Taylor – Brazil
July 9	Usha Shivaswamy – India
July 16	Pam Harwood and Coly Tabberson – Australia
July 23	Jennifer, Carter, Kendall Hollems – Mexico
July 30	Lisa Kuriscak – Spain
August 6	Anne & Paul Stover – Madagascar
August 13	Julia Corbett-Heymeyer – Iceland
August 20	Diane Hill - Scotland



If you have ever thought that you would love to travel to Spain, please consider assisting on July 30, when **Lisa Kuriscak** will be sharing her experiences with the children & youth. If you are interested in assisting, please contact me by email at nadine@uuchurchmuncie.org.

Helpers wanted in Childcare

Helpers are needed in the Nursery and Preschool classrooms! This can be on a part-time volunteer basis or a paid position. We are looking for people who are dependable, compassionate, and have experience with children five years old and under. You will help provide a safe and loving environment focusing on quality childcare for newborns through 5 years of age during the Sunday morning services, as well as for the Adult Religious Education hour from 9:30 to 10:30 on Sunday mornings. Childcare is also needed for 12:30 to 2:30, on Sunday afternoons and other church functions to be determined in the future.

Email childcare@uuchurchmuncie.org for more information!

Teachers are needed for our 2017-18 RE Program

We have openings in our Preschool, 3-5 grade, 6-8 grade, and 9-12 grade classes. Please email me if you are interested. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have!

RE Snacks

Cheese crackers and apple juice are always appreciated for our Sunday morning snack time!

Nadine

Splinters from the Board

Exploring faith. Practicing Inclusivity. Living Justice.

Over a year ago, the Board appointed a Grounds Vision Task Force to work on a long-range plan for the enhancement of the church grounds. Part of the impetus for this was the new sidewalk along Morrison on the west edge of the church property, which presents new opportunities for greater exposure and connection to the public. Having a plan means that any single improvement that might be desired in the short term could fit into the larger vision plan without disrupting or undoing some other aspect of that plan.

Meg Calkins, David Calvin, Dylan Ford and Pam Harwood met with a number of groups within the congregation to solicit ideas for this vision, presented their current draft to the Board in May, and presented it to the congregation in a discussion after the service on June 18. There will be opportunities in the future to hear this presentation again and detailed drawings are now posted at church. Take a look, and mark your favorite parts of the plan with the dot stickers provided. There are lots of exciting possibilities; rather than simply using the woods as our “buffer,” it could be an environment that is more accessible and enjoyable.

The Board will appoint a long range planning committee this fall, which will have a much broader scope, including programming and building needs. This grounds vision can then fit into the larger plan, as we set goals and priorities for the future.

One small aspect of the grounds plan will become a reality in the coming year, with the help of **Coly Tabberson**, one of our youth members and an aspiring Eagle Scout. In the next month, representatives of the Board, children’s RE and Property Maintenance will work with Coly to select a project of an appropriate scope. He will then be in charge of developing details, raising funds and organizing volunteers to build and complete the project, which will benefit us and fulfill his requirements to become an Eagle Scout. It’s an exciting opportunity for us to be involved in.

June marks the end of my year as president, and this is my last “Splinters” article! It’s been a challenging experience, full of learning and growth. Thank you all for your support, patience and kindness, and for all you do for the church. I’m happy to hand the reins to **Jerry McKean**!

Holly Hanauer, President

UUCM Childcare Request Form Procedure

Childcare Coordinator, Christie McCauley

If you wish to offer childcare for a church event you are sponsoring, please submit a [Childcare Request Form](#) located on the UUCM web page, at least two weeks prior to your event. Click on Members > Forms and Information > Childcare Request Form, fill in the required information, and submit the form for your event. Our childcare coordinator, **Christie McCauley**, is responsible for setting up childcare for all church events. Please note that submission of the form does not automatically mean that childcare coverage will be available for your event. In addition to submitting the form, you may wish to contact Christie McCauley at childcare@uuchurchmuncie.org. Christie will be in contact with you a week prior to your event to let you know if coverage is available.



“Humanism” Harshman Panel
Photo by Gunther Cartwright

Connect

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

going somewhere. Those of us who do spend time outdoors are more likely to sit on our back patio or deck, or play in our back yards, than in the front. Older houses were usually or often built with large, sweeping front porches that people frequently used. Then, for quite some time, houses were rarely built with these expansive front porches (my own included). Thankfully, in newer construction, and particularly in planned, intentional communities, front porches are making a comeback. The lack of sidewalks in many communities also discourages neighborhood walks and the visiting they encourage.

In my June column, I concentrated on practices for grounding and centering ourselves, with just a couple of references to those that engage us with other people. In this column, I want to home in more on some practices that can help us engage with other people. Kristen Schnell's story struck a responsive chord with me. It spoke to the desire I feel to be better connected with my neighbors. That's part of a larger desire for connection. No, we haven't built a front porch. Along the way, however, I've discovered several ways to build in human interaction into my life.

Just being outside is a good start. I admit to hiding indoors to escape Indiana's sweltering heat and humidity, but when the weather allows, simply being outside gets me in touch with others in my neighborhood who are also outside. Dogs and grandchildren are both instant conversation-starters! I also create welcome baskets for people new to the neighborhood. I used to make baked goods, but those have gotten difficult because of food preferences and allergies. Fruit is usually OK. I've not yet organized the block party my former neighbor and I discussed. Neither of us got to it, and then she moved. Next Fall or Spring perhaps?

I avoid drive-throughs when possible. I enjoy the brief interaction with the bank teller or the barista. When we grocery shop, we try to get in a check-out line staffed by one of our "regular" people, several of whom we've gotten to know enough to at least exchange pleasantries I also strike up conversations with people

standing in line with me. These are certainly not deep connections, but they are meaningful because they bear witness to the humanity we all share. The check-out clerk isn't just "the clerk." She is a human being like myself.

There are many ways we can connect with a *community*—all sorts of communities, in all sorts of ways. I recently found out that the Northwest YMCA has a community garden. CSAs (community supported agriculture) link producers directly with consumers. Go to farmer's markets and connect with the producers there. Visit Muncie's relatively new Makers Market where you can talk with those who produced or made the merchandise offered. If you enjoy yoga, find a group to practice with. Connections can also be very informal—a play group or a group of friends who meet weekly for coffee and conversation, a poker playing group. Take a class at Cornerstone; offer to lead a class. Invite a neighbor informally for coffee and conversation.

Become involved in your child's school, their Scout troop, or in their sports team. There is already common ground there because you have children in the same activities. Muncie's R.A.C.E. group (Reconciliation Achieved through Community Engagement) has become a substantial vehicle for community engagement and interaction with a wide variety of people here in River City.

At least for me, these kinds of connections also help establish and support a sense of place, a sense of belonging and being grounded where I am.

Check out the opportunities for deeper connection here at church. There's Women's Connection, adult RE groups, dinner discussion groups, Body Life, OUTReach, a book group, choir, and of course, you're always welcome to join a committee! When our new two-services format starts in September, the time from ten until eleven o'clock will be available for coffee and connection. There will be tables and chairs set up at the back of the sanctuary to facilitate more comfortable visiting. What opportunities for greater connection would *you* like to see? If you have ideas, let Reverend Seth, the Board, or me know. I can't promise they'll happen, but I can pretty much guarantee they *won't* happen if no one knows about them!

Rev. Julia

Continuing the Journey

Jerry McKean *(continued from page 1)*

affirmation of principles that do not change, and of people that do.

I think that most of us are on the journey to or from the second birth that Rev. Gomes identifies as the heart of the religious experience. Some of us need to overcome the powerlessness of our past or present, some of us need to prepare for a future that is certain to encounter uncertainty, and some of us (like me) need to do both. And then there are a few of us who have finished this part of their journey and travel toward a place that most of us have only glimpsed.

One of the essential parts of my journey was hitting bottom. I had to admit complete defeat by my particular (metaphorical!) demons. But when I did, the new life began. To paraphrase David Brooks, I found it possible to quiet the self long enough to let grace in. Not a supernatural experience, but one in which I was helped by unexpected and unlikely people, understood and cared for by others in ways I had not known existed, and loved in ways I did not deserve. And yes, it was amazing.

The "reprieve and renewal" came as I learned to pay forward the gifts that I can never pay back. My needs were met when they distilled into a need to be needed and a discovery that I was. This all happened long before I came to UUCM, but because it did, I bring a lot of gratitude to my service to our church. And I bring the sure knowledge that in us and among us is power to help, to heal, and to live out our wonderful mission and vision. Like most of us, I learned that to help myself, I must help others.

Our individual journeys have led us to collectively affirm and begin a journey for our church, not merely to a larger size, but to new expressions of faith, inclusivity, and justice. Our belief in us and in our mission and values inspires me, challenges me, and humbles me. Many people have told me that they came to UUCM because there was nowhere else that they could go. We are needed! To borrow a thought that I heard somewhere, we are blessed and we are a blessing.

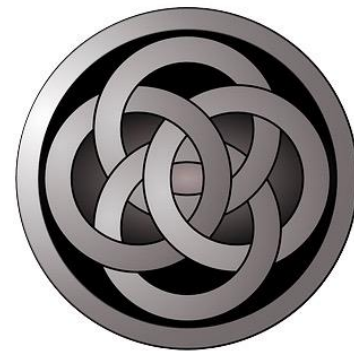
Jerry McKean

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 July 19.

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.



Summer Warmth

We stand at the edge of summer.

The sun has at last warmed us enough that we begin to trust in its presence.

*The last burst of spring blossoms, lavender and white and deep pink banks of
rhododendron, are giving way to summer peonies and roses.*

O source of the turning seasons,

Of earth, of life, of promise gradually becoming fulfillment,

May your people find a lightening of the burdens with the brightening of the sky.

HELEN COHEN

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

July Events & Activities

Visitors Q&A	Sunday	July 2	12:15 pm
Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force	Monday	July 3	7:00 pm
Church Office Closed - No Events Scheduled	Tuesday	July 4	
Carpet Cleaning	Wednesday	July 5	
Worship Associates	Wednesday	July 5	7:30 pm
Landscapes of Aging and Spirituality	Sunday	July 9	9:30 am
Chalice Marketplace	Sunday	July 9	9:30 am & Noon
Church Office Closed / Floor Waxing No Events Scheduled	Monday – Saturday	July 10 – 15	
Adult Discussion Committee	Sunday	July 16	12:15 pm
Social Justice Committee	Monday	July 17	7:00 pm
Unigram Submission Deadline	Wednesday	July 19	9:00 am
Board of Trustees	Wednesday	July 19	6:30 pm
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	July 20	7:15 pm
Fall Retreat Fundraiser Brunch	Sunday	July 23	Noon
Kitchen Cleaning	Saturday	July 29	9:30 am
Sack Lunch Prep for Soup Kitchen	Sunday	June 25	9:30 am

2016-17 Pledge Payments

The 2016-17 Fiscal Year ended on June 30, and final pledge payments are due. Please be sure to note the pledge year on all payments (16/17 FY: July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017 or 17/18 FY: July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018). Payments with no designation will be applied to the current pledge year.

Mark Your Calendars!

2017 UU Fall Family Retreat

Friday – Sunday, October 6 – 8
at Pokagon State Park

AND

A Kick-Off Fundraiser to Help with Retreat Costs - come join us for a Pancake Brunch after church on Sunday, July 23!

Come see our retreat Pancake Team at work!

Summer Office Schedule

Monday

1-4:00 pm

Tuesday

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Wednesday/Thursday

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

The office is closed Fridays.

Summer Break

The church and office will be closed *July 4th & 5th* for the holiday and carpet cleaning.

The *entire building* will be closed the week of July 10-15, for summer break and floor waxing.

Body Life Dinner

We'll take a break from our Tuesday dinner to celebrate the 4th of July. We cannot use the building on July 11, due to floor waxing. Watch the eBlast for more information – we might meet at someone's home.

OUTreach

Finding SPIRIT

Muncie OUTreach has planned a bike ride for the week of floor waxing at UUCM, and will be at the Delaware Co. Fair on July 21.

Finding SPIRIT will not meet the first 3 weeks in July due to the holiday, floor waxing and fair.

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

Board of Trustees

Jerry McKean

President

Ginny Nilles

President-Elect

John Bartlett

Vice President

Sharon Seager

Secretary

Jennifer Hollems

Treasurer

Holly Hanauer

Past President

Youth Representative

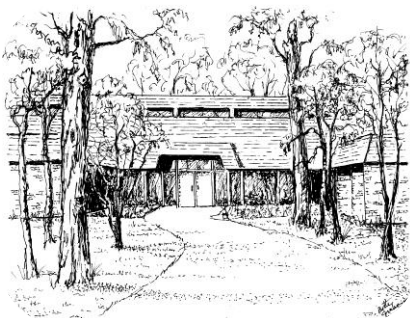
Anna Dillinger

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 – Thursday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie

4800 West Bradford Drive
Muncie, IN 47304



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit 635
Muncie, IN

Return Service
Requested

DATED MATERIAL