



the UNIGRAM

Risking Vulnerability

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister

Asking for help. Initiating sex with my wife. Saying “I love you” first and not knowing if I’m going to be loved back. Trying something new. Admitting I’m afraid. Initiating sex with my husband. Presenting my product to the world and getting no response. Asking for forgiveness. These are just some of the response shame researcher Brené Brown reserved when she asked her researcher participants to fill in the following blank: “Vulnerability is _____.” Vulnerability clearly involves a level of risk, a feeling of emotional exposure. Indeed, following are some of the answers that Brown received when she asked the same folks “how does vulnerability feel?” It’s taking off the mask and hoping the real me isn’t too disappointing. It’s where courage and fear meet. Sweaty palms and a racing heart. Going out on a limb – a very, very high limb. Taking the first step toward what you fear the most. It feels so awkward and scary, but it makes me human and alive. Infinitely terrifying and achingly necessary.

Brown started her research wanting to learn more about connection, not realizing that she was going to end up doing a deep dive on shame and vulnerability. Shame is a giant topic, one which we’ll go more into another

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Labeling, Cognitive Dissonance, and the Risk of Identity Theft

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

I’ve been thinking a lot about risk lately. A lot more than I would have chosen, had life given me that choice. But it didn’t. Instead, life presented me with another set of choices.

I’ve always been very active, and particularly enjoy walking, hiking and bicycling. As most of you are aware, I fell a couple of months ago and sustained a minor pelvic fracture. I was told in very stark terms while I was in the hospital that in the future I would need to substantially limit or modify what I do. It seems, according to what I was told, that I’m now in a category of people labeled the “medically frail elderly.”

Clearly, there are risks associated both with allowing that label to define what I can do, and with not allowing it to do so. The risks of continuing to do what I’ve enjoyed doing for so long are obvious. Those I would incur by “accepting my fate” are more subtle. I can summarize them in one phrase: significant diminishment of my life. And of Tom’s and my shared life, because those are all things we enjoy together.

What makes this of more than passing interest is our culture’s continuing propensity for labeling people, usually with labels that are inherently limiting. My experience in the hospital was truly horrid. [This occurred while we were in Florida; it

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Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

Services at 9:15 & 11:15 am

May Theme :: Risk

Our May theme of Risk invites us to consider what it means to take chances in our lives. Risk and risk-taking is often considered a negative action or behavior, but there are times where risks important to take in our lives. We'll explore risk and many other related ideas on Sunday mornings this month.

On Sunday May 13th, we will hold our Bridging Ceremony, where we honor and celebrate our graduating seniors moving on to the next stage of their lives. The on Sunday, May the 20th, we will have our Coming of Age Service, where the youth who have been engaged in the Coming of Age process share their faith statements with the congregation. Both of these are experiences not to be missed!

May 6, 13, 20 – Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd

May 27 – Joel Tishken, Intern Minister

Religious Education for Children & Youth

Classes at 9:15 & 11:15 am

On the first Sunday, during our 9:15 Service, **Joel Tishken** will be leading a multiage Children's Chapel in the Yellow Room. Nadine will be leading a multiage theme-based class on all other Sundays.

Our 11:15 Religious Education classes in grades Preschool-5th grade will be focusing on the theme of the month "Risk" through story, song, and hands-on-activities.

Our 11:15 Coming of Age class will be meeting with their mentors on May 6 to continue working on their faith statements and on May 13 they will rehearse their presentations in class. The culmination of our Coming of Age program is the presentation of their faith statements in a special service which will be held on Sunday, May 20. This is a Sunday not to be missed!

Our 11:15 high school class will be meeting with **Pam Harwood** on May 6 for a discussion on the theme of the month and will continue working on their murals representing our UU faith. On May 13, **Maggie Bartlett** leads exploration of our UU faith and values through the curriculum, *Popcorn Theology*.

On Sunday, May 20, we will be holding our Multigenerational "Coming of Age" service, so we will not be holding K-12 grade classes. Childcare for preschool and kindergarten will be available in the Blue Room.

Game Day! will be held on Sunday, May 27 for all grades. Activities will be set up outside, weather permitting. We will have chalk art, bubbles, Frisbees, jump rope, hula hoops, horse shoes, along with tables set up for glitter art and paper airplanes.

Adult Religious Exploration Offerings

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 on Sunday mornings.

Every Sunday, 9:30 am
Red Room
Adult Discussion Group

This group is a chance for people with various personal beliefs to get together and openly discuss a variety of topics. You'll find weekly topics in the Friday eBlast.

Every Sunday, 10:15 am
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.

Theme Exploration – Risk

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 a poem titled “To Risk,” reading #658 from the Unitarian Universalist Association’s [Singing the Living Tradition](#).

To laugh is to risk appearing the fool.
 To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.
 To reach out for another is to risk exposing our true self.
 To place our ideals—our dreams—
 before the crowd is to risk loss.
 To love is to risk not being loved in return.
 To hope is to risk despair.
 To try is to risk failure.
 To live is to risk dying.

Questions for Reflection

Are you (or someone you love) being reckless and calling it “freedom”? (“We mistook violence for passion, indolence for leisure, and thought recklessness was freedom.” – Toni Morrison)

Are your commitments deep and big enough to put you in danger? (To act is to be committed, and to be committed is to be in danger. – James Baldwin)

When was the last time you referred to life using the phrase: “The thrill of it all?” Where is there room this month to make life a bit more trilling?

Have the adventures gotten a bit out of hand? Is there a bit too much “living boldly” going on for you right now? Might it be time to take the risk of turning some adventures down?

Are you putting up with recklessness? (“Don’t be reckless with other people’s hearts, and don’t put up with people who are reckless with yours.” – Kurt Vonnegut)

Resources for Going Deeper

Poem: The Edge is where I want to be, by Lisa Martinovic

Full poem at: <http://slaminatrix.com/the-edge-is-where-i-want-to-be>

Video: Addicted to Risk – TED Talk ~Naomi Klein
https://www.ted.com/talks/naomi_klein_addicted_to_risk#t-197903

Film: “Fire at Sea” A heart-rending documentary about a small island between Libya and Sicily where illegal immigrants from Africa stop on their way to Europe. The risks the refugees and the locals take.

https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/fire_at_sea_2016

Spiritual or Reflective Practice

Resist Standing Up and Risk Sitting Down

“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.” - Winston Churchill

Winston Churchill’s words are indeed a celebration of the “quieter” acts of courage. Yes, the more assertive risks get most of the attention: speaking up, defending, pushing back, demanding your voice be heard. And yet, sometimes that instinct to “let them have it” isn’t the brave thing to do; it’s just the easiest. Sometimes speaking up is simply a way to avoid courageously listening to the other side. Sometimes putting yourself on the line to “change them” is just a sneaky way to avoid them changing us. Or a tragic missed opportunity to grow. Yes, we should urge each other to “bravely keep going” and “courageously take control.” Yet, there are also times when what’s most needed is the risk of letting go of control and just sitting with unknowing. And so, maybe a bit more space it needed. Maybe it would do us some good to make some room for a “spiritual time out” before we leap into the louder acts of bravery. Maybe it’s good to risk “letting a little more in” before we “let them have it.”

And so, here’s what this spiritual assignment invites us to do: **Find three opportunities to “sit down and listen” when your first instinct is to “stand up and speak.”** Yes, that’s NOT going to be easy. But it will be worth the risk!

Religious Education Corner

Nadine Tringali
Director of Religious Education

Coming of Age

The culmination of our year-long middle school Coming of Age program, will be celebrated with the youth presenting their faith statements at the **Coming of Age service** on Sunday, May 20. They have been guided on this journey by their COA facilitators, their mentors, and **Rev. Seth**. Many thanks to the facilitators: **Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd, Zach Enos, Amy Shaw,** and **Joel Tishken**, and to the youth mentors: **Eli Butterbaugh, Steve Chalk, Dylan Ford, Holly Ford, Kent Hanser, Eleanor Johnson, Bea Sousa, John Taylor,** and **Emily Wornell**.

Bridging Ceremony

I look forward to our **Bridging Ceremony** with our high school graduates on May 13. Our seniors are **Wil Dubree, Ben Moorman,** and **Coly Tabberson**. On this Sunday, we recognize our graduating seniors as they begin the important step of moving forward into their futures!

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 News

Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd
Coordinator of Youth Programs

One Last Brunch!

May 7 is your last chance to enjoy brunch at UUCM and support the Youth trip to the Borderlands in June. Plan to stay after the first service or come early for the second. Food is served at 10:15 am and remains out until 11 am (though some favorites may have been eaten by then). Don't miss this wonderful chance to support the youth, connect with folks who attend the other service and just enjoy fellowship with your church community!

Transitions

Don't miss the upcoming services that honor major transitions in the lives of our youth. My 12 is our Bridging Ceremony, which marks the transition of our graduating seniors into young adulthood. May 20 is the Coming of Age service, where you can hear credo statements from the youth who have been journeying through the Coming of Age program all year grappling with life's big questions.

Youth Group Schedule

All events are 12:30 - 2 pm

May 13 – Middle School Youth Group

May 20 – High School Youth Group

May 27 – Middle and High School Youth Group End of Year Party

Elizabeth

Everyone's a Risk Taker

Joel Tishken, Intern Minister

Dictionaries usually define a *risk* in one of three ways: (1) dangers to our bodies or life, (2) the chance an investment may lose value, (3) or the perils within the terms of an insurance contract. When you think of the word risk, what do you think of? The first definition is what came to my mind first. I am guessing that one of these notions of a risk is what came to your mind too. After all, language reinforces culture and vice versa. The dictionary is reflecting what we culturally think and believe. But more than that, the dictionary definitions of risk also conveys what we value. We stand in awe of those people who embrace the risks associated with the first two definitions of risk. People who face physical risks to themselves to aid others, like first responders, certainly deserve our admiration and gratitude for their selflessness and public service. Our capitalist culture encourages us to stand in awe of venture capitalists who place their wealth at risk in emergent companies and somehow manage to turn it into greater wealth. In these public cases of risk, part of what makes the behavior admirable to us is not just the assumption of risk by these individuals. What also makes it admirable is their conquering of fear to embrace the risk. Many of us probably appreciate that not everyone can conquer their fear sufficiently to fight a fire or invest their life savings. And even if we did, we appreciate that it still takes skill and knowledge to do the thing even once you're past the fear.

But, are those three kinds of risks a sufficient or robust enough definition of what constitutes risk? Clearly they are indeed kinds of risks. But firefighters, police, soldiers, entrepreneurs, and the like, are hardly the only people who take risks. We all do! Risks are as diverse as we are.

Sure, some risks are universal and something we can all recognize as a risk, like the threat of bodily harm. But beyond some universals lie a range of diverse risks based on each of our idiosyncrasies, fears, strengths, and life experiences. This makes many risks subjective. What may seem risky to some may not to others.

Did my sermon on paradox on March 25th seem a risk? I suspect it did not seem risky to some of you. But for me it was. Publicly talking about being a religious humanist, nontheist pagan, and adorer of the goddess Diana was an emotional risk for me. That's not a part of myself I let just anyone know about. After having been hassled by some theists for not being theist enough, and some nontheists for not being nontheist enough, I had found it safer to keep that part of myself generally private. So even though that was not the kind of risk that fits the dictionary definitions, a glorious feat of death-defying heroism or daredevilism, and even though might have been a risk for many other people, that does not diminish the fact that I faced a fear of vulnerability, summoned courage, and took what was a risk for me. And I am grateful that I did, and deeply appreciate the loving response I received. Similarly, we all regularly take what are risks for ourselves. It is important to remind ourselves of that fact and celebrate overcoming our fears and taking the risks we take. That it may not fit the definition of risk for others or our culture is beside the point. Please remember to give yourself credit for the risks you take, whatever they may be. And at the same time, it is important to strive to do the same for others too. Just because something is easy for us does not mean others are not engaging in risk-taking for themselves when they do it. Those around us may appreciate our sensitivity to and acknowledgement of their risks. We are all risk-takers in our own ways. Let's celebrate them!

Joel

You must accept that you might fail; then, if you do your best and still don't win, at least you can be satisfied that you've tried. If you don't accept failure as a possibility, you don't set high goals, you don't branch out, you don't try – you don't take the risk. ~Rosalynn Carter

Splinters from the Board

Exploring faith. Practicing inclusivity. Living justice.

I want to take the opportunity of this month's column to give you some sense of the work we have been doing to attend to the health of our congregation.

First, we have collaborated with the Committee on Ministries on the Listening Sessions and the collation and analysis of the information they produced. If printed out in a readable font, the notes from those sessions totals over ninety pages, so both the board and the committee have their work cut out for them in this task. We are striving to produce as complete a response to your suggestions, concerns, and joys as we possible can before the congregational meeting on May 20.

Second, the board has approved a budget recommendation for the congregation that was presented in an April 29 meeting.

Third, we are working on a report on the addition of a second service that we hope will prove useful to you as we ponder the fate of this initiative.

Fourth, we are working on a feedback procedure for the congregation that we hope is easily understood, widely accepted, and as transparent and accountable as possible.

Fifth, in addition to the continuous feedback and advice from the board and Committee on Ministries that the minister receives as we collaborate in our work for the congregation, we are also conducting a more structured evaluation of his performance that we hope will provide him with further useful feedback.

Sixth, we are supporting the effort initiated by the Program Fair to recruit and incorporate new members into the many committees and programs that do the work of the church.

And that ain't all! The dedication and hard work of the members of the board and of the Committee on Ministries are nothing short of amazing. It is a privilege to work with them.

It's not easy. We (all of us) have chosen a challenging path. As you know, Unitarian Universalism, as it is expressed in our congregation and throughout the UUA, is a counter-cultural movement. Where the world is devolving into tribes, we are opening our arms to people from diverse backgrounds and religious beliefs. Where the world is insisting that life is a zero-sum game, we persist in transforming it into win-win, gaining more each time we give more. Where the world has come to prize fear-mongering and threats, we strive for kindness and encouragement. Where the world insists it's everyone for themselves (or their tribe) we seek to embody principles of respect, compassion, and love for the interdependent web of being. When the spirit of the world says stomp, the spirit of UU's says dance.

It's not easy. What saves us is that we journey together. When we do that, we make the journey a little easier.

Jerry McKean, president

New Adult Religious Education Opportunities

UUCM will feature two Adult religious exploration opportunities this spring, facilitated by **Intern Minister Joel**. Both courses are currently underway, but newcomers remain welcome.

Shared Pulpit is a workshop that helps lay people gain experience designing, writing, and preaching a full-length sermon. Some loan copies of the workshop book titled [The Shared Pulpit](#), are available; talk with Intern Minister Joel about them. Participants are also welcome to purchase their own book – you can find them online [here](#). Shared Pulpit will meet Sundays 12:45-2:00 pm, in the Orange Room, through June 3 (except May 20 & May 27).

Credo-Writing for Adults explores weekly theological topics that build toward the writing of a personal theological statement, or credo. This course will meet Mondays through June 4 (except May 28), 6:30-7:30 pm, in the Indigo Room. **Intern Minister Joel** will be happy to answer your questions.

Congregational Meeting :: Sunday, May 20, 12:30 pm

UUCM's annual spring congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, May 20, at 12:30 pm. If you wish to vote, you must check in with the secretary and pick up your voting card before the beginning of the meeting.

Our By-laws define voting membership as follows: Article III, Section 2. *Persons who have been admitted to membership for at least thirty (30) days, who make a financial pledge to the church and make a good-faith effort to pay it, who donate their time and services, and who attend church services and activities are deemed to be voting members with all rights and privileges. Members who by reason of health have not been able to participate in church affairs and members who by reason of financial hardship have not been able to make a monetary contribution, are nonetheless viewed by the church as being members.*

Please note that a contribution of record for the 365 days preceding this meeting must be received by the church office by May 11 to fulfill the voting member requirement. The agenda is published below. Absentee ballots will be available upon request to the church office beginning **Monday, May 7, at 1:00 pm**. Completed ballots must be received in the office by **Friday, May 18, at 12:30 pm**.

UUCM Congregational Business Meeting Agenda

Sunday, May 20, 2018, 12:30 pm

Call to Order

1. Approval of Minutes from the October 22, 2017 Congregational Meeting
2. Two Services proposal
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Presentation of the Proposed 2018-2019 Budget
5. Election of Board Officers: Nominees for election to the open Board positions are **Caroline Sullivan**, President-Elect and **Brandon Mundell**, Secretary.

Adjournment

Gather the Spirit – A Raising of Voices with Jim Scott

Saturday, May 12, 7:00 pm

Please join us as we host a concert by UU musician Jim Scott on Saturday, May 12, at 7pm, in the sanctuary!

Jim brings a warmth and authenticity that turns any size audience into an intimate gathering. His lyrical melodies, well-crafted words, guitar mastery and humorous surprises invite all to get involved with the songs and ideals he raises. It's a raising of voices and of spirits as Jim leads songs of earth, peace, community, love and just fun - for everyone to join in. A life long UU with songs in our Hymnbooks (Gather the Spirit), Jim's visited over 700 UU churches in 3 decades of travels. He played for years with the Paul Winter Consort and was co-composer of their celebrated Missa Gaia/Earth Mass. Jim's enchanting manner and conviction moved folk legend Pete Seeger to call him "Some kind of magician."

There's a real call to activism with Jim's new get-out-the-vote song "The World Needs Your Voice," his re-writing of James Durst's anti-gun song, "What We Don't Need," and Jim's eco anthem "We Are the Earth," plus many songs from his new album. You can hear the first two on Jim's website front page www.Jimscottmusic.com. Suggested donation is \$10-\$20 sliding scale at the door, kids under twelve free.

Risking Vulnerability

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

time. Vulnerability though, that is what Brown found is one of the keys to creating connection between people. One of my favorite quotes of hers is, “Vulnerability is the last thing I want you to see in me, but the first thing I look for in you.” We’re drawn to vulnerability – we label it authenticity, being real, being fully present. When someone shares vulnerable in a healthy, grounded way, it’s appealing. And yet so often, it’s hard for us to go there ourselves. The tricky part is, we human beings crave a sense of connection, and so if we’re overly cautious with our vulnerability, we can end up feeling far more disconnected than we’d like.

In her book, Daring Greatly, where the above examples come from, Brown writes about an experience her daughter Ellen has at school, where she shared a secret with someone she thought was a trustworthy friend, only for the friend to break her confidence. She came home hurt, of course, but more than that, she wanted to know how to figure out who she could trust. That is one of the challenges of vulnerability after all, because not everyone is a safe person for us to be vulnerable with. So how do we know who we can trust? One suggestion that Brown made to her daughter is that trust is earned bit by bit over time: when people in our lives do small things that show they care, then trust gradually builds up over time. If you viewed each of these small acts as putting a few marbles in the jar – a full jar of marbles means a friend you can trust.

This might already feel daunting to some of you; unfortunately, there are often even more barriers that get in the way of us being vulnerable with one another. One of these barriers is what Brown calls “vulnerability armor,” or the strategies we use to avoid feeling vulnerable. Brown’s research actually turned up many types of armor we use, but the three most common ones are foreboding joy, perfectionism, and numbing. The best short definition of foreboding joy is waiting for the other shoe to drop – instead of being present in a moment of goodness, we separate ourselves out from it, worried that

something bad is going to happen to take it all away. We keep ourselves “safe” from being too vulnerable if something bad happens, but in the meantime, we’ve also kept ourselves from enjoying the good.

Perfectionists are not striving for excellence, they are striving for approval from the others, seeking their worth from the outside, instead of from within. The problem with perfectionism, of course, is that it’s a never-ending hustle. Someone judges you, your self-worth craters, and you’ve got to try even harder. And then numbing – that’s probably the most self-explanatory of all. Feeling difficult feelings can be hard and painful, and many of us seek recourse in numbing. Addiction is one of the common forms of numbing, and its scope runs much further than just drugs and alcohol. Some of us numb with alcohol and drugs; others of us numb with food, or video games, or busyness, just to name a few of the alternatives. Two of the many problems with numbing – first is it doesn’t actually make the difficult feelings go away, they’re still there. Second is that you can’t selectively numb; as Brown likes to say, “numb the dark and you numb the light.”

There’s so much more to go into with this – and we will, as we explore May’s theme of Risk together. We’ll definitely talk more about vulnerability, as well as other areas where risk can play a positive role in our lives. As we explore together, I hope we can consider where, when and with whom we might risk being appropriately vulnerable, both in our lives, and in our church community. Being vulnerable is scary and hard – and it’s a crucial component of the deeper connection we all yearn for in our lives.

See you in church!

peace, love and blessings,

Rev. Seth



Labeling, Cognitive Dissonance, and the Risk of Identity Theft

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

does not pertain at all to IU Health Ball Memorial, with which I have had uniformly good experiences.] As I've tried to process that experience, I've begun to recognize that I had been in the middle of a very toxic stew of sexism, ageism, and ableism, and I might be missing one or two more isms. The traumatization of being labeled and then treated on the basis of the category I'd been "assigned" to has proven to be far more distressing and debilitating in the long term than the fall itself.

In this culture we tend to label those whom we define as "cultural nons": non-male, non-binary in gender expression, non-white, non-homed (i.e. homeless), non-employed, non-American born, non-able bodied, non-young... It's a way we define people negatively, in terms of what they are not or cannot do, or do not have. It both defines and enforces otherness and othering. It describes people in terms of broad categories rather than recognizing that each of us is a unique individual.

Each of these labels also drags along with it assumptions which are also negative. I couldn't even begin to process the events and feelings of those two days in the hospital until about six weeks after we got home to Muncie. When I did, I figured out that old, female, and disabled had translated into "mentally incompetent to make my own decisions" in the eyes of most (not quite all) hospital personnel. Rather than asking *me* about me, most asked someone else, or simply *told* me what was what.

I suddenly found myself defined in terms of all the things people assumed I could not/should not do. Being labeled as "medically frail elderly" and the laundry list of things I could no longer do caused me extreme cognitive dissonance. Cognitive dissonance is a complex phenomenon, but one aspect of it is the "mental stress or discomfort experienced by an individual who is confronted by new information that conflicts with existing beliefs, ideas, or values."

The new information I'd been presented with was in harsh contrast to my self-identity as someone who is reasonably intelligent, older and female, yes, but hardly frail, and certainly able to think for myself! Because I was indeed in a vulnerable situation (which not the same as

"weak"), I was less able than I would otherwise have been to separate the labels from the reality that part of me knew to be true. For a time, I was a victim of what I might call cognitive identity theft. This is a microcosm of what we have done to vulnerable populations in our culture historically and currently.

Cultural othering is typically directed at these vulnerable populations. It's one way the dominant culture maintains control over them. In our culture, it goes back at least to how the colonists treated the native peoples, and then to how slaveholders maintained control over their slaves. More recently, it's reflected in the cultural control exerted over LGBTQ people and immigrants.

The links between labeling, cultural identity theft and control may be quite obvious to most of you. I "knew" it, yes, but the way in which I recently experienced it radically changed my perception of it. And it made absolutely clear the terrible things that happen when we deny the inherent worth and dignity of a human being, of any human being or group of human beings.

It also deepened my appreciation for our church even more. When I came back here, I was surrounded by people by whom I felt affirmed and buoyed up in spirit. You are helping me find my way back to myself. Thank you!

Rev. Julia



"Humanism" Harshman Panel
Photo by Gunther Cartwright

Gratitude

Thank you UUCM for making the Program Fair a great success! We appreciate all the volunteers who made it happen, everyone who attended, and everyone who expressed interest in getting involved. If you missed the fair, it is never too late to get involved. See the list of programs outside the main office for details on all our programs. Contact **Intern Minister Joel** or **Holly Hanauer** with questions or expressions of interest.

~Joel Tishken

Sincere thanks to all the UUs who joined us for Muncie events on March 24, the day of the March for Our Lives in D.C., Indianapolis, and many other cities: **Marnee Cooley, Sue Errington, Robert Guillaud, Lynn Hale, Jerry & Eloise McKean, Markie Oliver & Eleanor Trawick, Steve Robert & Tracy Whelan, Tania Said & Steve & Adam Schuler, and George Wolfe.** A truly impressive turnout, especially in light of all the other UUs, young and old, who rallied in Indy that morning. Good for you, too! Here in Muncie, both the not-really-cancelled march, out in the wind and cold, and then the lively rally at Deliverance Temple on East 2nd Street were truly “grassroots” - partly structured, partly self-organizing, and altogether determined and democratic. ~Wayne Meyer

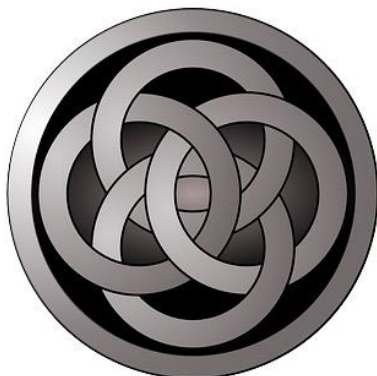
The Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force would like to thank everyone who helped out with the Forward S.T.E.P.S. dinner on April 19th. You baked lasagnas and bread and fruit crisp and served it with a smile to those folks trying to work their way out of poverty. Thank you so much!

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."



Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.

~Marcel Proust



Wheel of Life

Kyle Reese Ewing joined the Ewing family on March 7th, at 1:26 am, weighing 8lb 1.5oz, at 21 inches long. Mom and Dad are adjusting to parent life, and Kyle's kitty-sister (Millie) is begrudgingly sharing the attention. Thank you for all of the kind wishes already received!

~Denise & Ben Ewing

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.

May 2018 UUCM Calendar

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

Regular Weekly Events

Worship Services	Sundays	9:15 & 11:15 am
Religious Exploration for Children & Youth	Sundays	9:15 & 11:15 am
Adult Discussion Group	Sundays	9:30 am
Muncie UU Pagans	Sundays	10:15 am
Adult RE: Shared Pulpit (no sessions May 20 & 27)	Sundays	12:45 pm
Adult RE: Credo-Writing (no session May 28)	Mondays	6:30 pm
Body Life Dinner	Tuesdays	6:00 – 7:30 pm
Finding Spirit :: Transgender Support Group	Tuesdays	7:00 pm
Revival Hour (see online calendar for location)	Wednesdays	5:30 pm
Muncie OUTreach LGBTQ Youth Drop In	Fridays	5:00 – 8:00 pm

May Events & Activities

Choir Rehearsal (last Tue. rehearsal until fall)	Tuesday	May 1	7:30 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	May 2	7:30 pm
Property Maintenance Workday	Saturday	May 5	9:00 am
Choir Rehearsal	Sunday	May 6	10:30 am
Visitors Q&A	Sunday	May 6	10:30 & 12:45
Boston Bound Fundraising Meeting	Sunday	May 6	10:30 am
Service Auction	Sunday	May 6	12:30 pm
Inquirer Series (last session until fall)	Sunday	May 6	12:45 pm
Roots & Wings :: New Member Class	Sunday	May 6	12:45 pm
Social Justice Committee	Monday	May 7	7:30 pm
Board of Trustees	Wednesday	May 9	6:30 pm
RE Sensory Garden Community Build	Saturday	May 12	9:00 am
Kitchen Cleaning	Saturday	May 12	9:30 am
Jim Scott Concert	Saturday	May 12	7:00 pm
Chalice Marketplace	Sunday	May 13	10:15 am
Service Journey Fundraiser Brunch	Sunday	May 13	10:15 am
Boston Bound Bake Sale	Sunday	May 13	10:15 am
New Member Signing Ceremony	Sunday	May 13	10:45 am
Middle School Youth Group	Sunday	May 13	12:45 pm
Program Council	Wednesday	May 16	7:00 pm
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	May 17	7:15 pm
Coming of Age Celebration	Saturday	May 19	6:00 pm
Congregational Business Meeting	Sunday	May 20	12:30 pm
Adult Discussion Committee	Sunday	May 20	12:45 pm
High School Youth Group	Sunday	May 20	12:45 pm
Newcomer Dinner	Sunday	May 20	5:00 pm
Unigram Submission Deadline	Wednesday	May 23	9:00 am
Membership Committee	Thursday	May 24	7:00 pm
Combined Youth Groups Party	Sunday	May 27	12:45 pm

One Last Brunch!

May 7 is your last chance to enjoy brunch at UUCM and support the Youth trip to the Borderlands in June. Plan to stay after the first service or come early for the second.

Food is served at 10:15 am and remains out until 11 am (though some favorites may have been eaten by then).

Don't miss this wonderful chance to support the youth, connect with folks who attend the other service and just enjoy fellowship with your church community!

Congregational Workday

Mark your calendars, folks! The Property Maintenance Committee will be hosting a congregational workday on Saturday, May 5, from 9am - noon, with a rain date of May 12, same time. We will be working on the church grounds to rake leaves, trim trees, pick up litter, plant some hostas at the main entrance, weed, and do whatever else needs done. Please bring your own rakes, trimmers, shovels, gloves, etc., as the church doesn't have enough for everyone. Make sure you mark your own items. This is a great chance to meet people or get to know some better, while we work together for a common cause. Refreshments are always available to encourage, sustain, and reward our efforts! Please come if you are able, even if it's just for a while!

UUCM Staff & Leadership

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Board of Trustees

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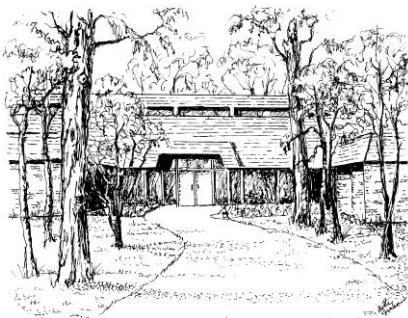
Youth Representative

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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