



the UNIGRAM

Creating Sanctuary

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister

Sanctuary is our theme for October, and one of the first things that comes to mind for me when thinking of sanctuary is safety. And the particular area I want to look at right now is safety in relationships – where does that safety come from? In part at least, it comes from unspoken agreements about what is acceptable and what is not. Sure, we’ve codified some things into law – physical violence is generally illegal. But there’s plenty of agreements that differ from culture to culture. For example, personal space – different cultures have different expectations about how close it is acceptable to stand to one another. If you were to encounter someone from one of those cultures with a different sense of personal space and they “got right up in your grill” ... it’s possible you might feel a little less safe, especially if the person in question was substantially bigger than you. Most cultures don’t have explicit conversations about where that invisible boundary is, and yet everyone who grows up in a particular country learns it, and generally abides by it.

In our church, we don’t make anyone sign a contract where they commit to treating others respectfully and with kindness, and yet it is an expectation we have. People who spend time in our community observe how we treat one another, and act accordingly. Even in our day-to-day

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A Tale of Two People

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

A 30-year-old man fell from a ladder while he was cleaning out the rain gutters on his two-story house. He tore several ligaments, was bruised up, and had x-ray results that were inconclusive. He was in a great deal of pain, having trouble walking, and later went to a hospital emergency department as a precaution. The emergency physician went over the x-rays with him and explained the evidence for various hypotheses about what his injuries were. Medical personnel assumed he had fallen because he was on a ladder and lost his footing. Period. There was no mention whatsoever of his age. He was hospitalized a couple of days as a precaution. His pain was reasonably well-controlled by

medication, and he was given medication to help him sleep. Two days later, when the discharge planner was getting things in order so that he could be released from the hospital, they asked him for his ideas about what arrangements he needed for going home. He left the hospital with a referral to a physical therapist at his own discretion. There was no discussion of nursing home placement.

An older woman fell while hurrying across a gravel parking lot. She tore several ligaments, was bruised up, and had x-ray results that were inconclusive. She was in a great deal of pain, having trouble walking, and later went to a hospital emergency department as a precaution.

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Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

Service at 10:45 am

October Theme :: Sanctuary

Our October theme of Sanctuary invites us to consider a variety of questions, including: what does sanctuary mean in our lives? Where do we find sanctuary? Who are those with less privilege in our country who need sanctuary and how do we help them find it? There is one special service this month, on Sunday, October 14th, when the youth will lead their annual Youth Sunday service – keen observers, you are correct, this is earlier in the year than usual. Also, parents, note that we will begin the service with our annual Halloween Parade on Sunday, October 28th, so bring your kids in costume!

October 7, 21 – Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd

October 14 – Youth Sunday

October 28 – Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer

Religious Education for Children & Youth

Classes at 10:45 am

Sunday, October 7, is a Social Action Sunday.

Sunday, October 14, is a Curriculum Sunday for preschool-2nd grade. Children & Youth in grades 3rd - 12th will be in the sanctuary for our annual Youth Sunday developed by our middle and high school youth under the guidance of Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd. Don't miss this service! Following the service, please stop by our **Boston Bound Bake Sale** booth and grab a cookie or muffin to go with your coffee!

On **Sunday, October 21**, we will be holding a **Boston Bound Brunch fundraiser** after the service. Please come with an appetite and enjoy a selection of delicious breakfast casseroles, salad, and fruit!

On **Sunday, October 28**, we will be holding our annual **Halloween Parade** at the beginning of the service. All are welcome! For details, check out *RE Corner*.

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 listed on [page 10](#).

Other Monthly Events

There are a variety of regular events on Sunday mornings at UUCM. Be sure to check the [calendar](#) for Boston Bound fundraisers, Chalice Marketplace, Sack Lunches for the Soup Kitchen of Muncie, and much, much more... so many opportunities to connect with each other in our beautiful church in the woods!

Theme Exploration – Sanctuary

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 quote from Quaker theologian Parker Palmer:

When I was a kid, “sanctuary” meant only one thing. It was the big room with the stained-glass windows and hard wooden benches where my family worshipped every Sunday. Church attendance was not optional for my sisters and me, so that sanctuary was where I learned to pray — pray that the service would end, and God would release me back into the wild. I also learned that not all prayers are answered, no matter how ardent. Today, after 77 years of life in a world that’s both astonishingly beautiful and horrifically cruel, “sanctuary” is as vital as breathing to me. Sometimes I find it in churches, monasteries, and other sites designated as sacred. But more often I find it in places sacred to my soul: in the natural world, in the company of a trustworthy friend, in solitary or shared silence, in the ambience of a good poem or good music. Sanctuary is wherever I find safe space to regain my bearings, reclaim my soul, heal my wounds, and return to the world as a wounded healer. It’s not merely about finding shelter from the storm: it’s about spiritual survival. Today, seeking sanctuary is no more optional for me than church attendance was as a child.

Questions for Reflection

When did you first discover that “sanctuary” was more than a physical place?

Who is sanctuary for you? Have you told them lately how great of a gift that is?

What if sanctuary isn’t a place, but that moment when you realize that you don’t have to keep trying to prove yourself? What if sanctuary is the awareness that we’ve already “arrived”? That we’re already enough?

Resources for Going Deeper

Video - What Does Home Mean to You?

www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWt76WqRCVs

Article – “Seeking Sanctuary in Our Own Sacred Spaces” by Parker Palmer

<https://onbeing.org/blog/seeking-sanctuary-in-our-own-sacred-spaces>

Spiritual Practice

Even if we don’t refer to them as such, many of us have “morning rituals of sanctuary.” We meditate, take the dog for a long walk, enjoy a few minutes with our cup of coffee, swim or read a devotional. It’s all about getting the day off on the right foot. But psychologists tell us that ending the day with the experience of sanctuary can be even more important.

So this month, find a practice to “end your day with sanctuary.” Here’s a great article with a bunch of ideas and explanations why it’s so key to spiritual centeredness:

https://www.bakadesuyo.com/2016/02/ending-ritual/?utm_source=pocket&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pockethits

The spiritual practice challenge is to pick or create a form of sanctuary for yourself to end your day with, and to try and do that every day this month.

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*The material in this article is sourced directly from our Soul Matters theme packets.*

## Religious Education Corner

*Nadine Tringali*  
*Director of Religious Education*

Sunday, **October 14** is a Curriculum Sunday for preschool-2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Children & Youth in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> will be in the sanctuary for our annual “**Youth Sunday**” developed by our middle and high school youth under the guidance of Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd. Don’t miss this service!

Please mark your calendars for our **October 14, Boston Bound Bake Sale** and grab a delicious baked goodie to go with your coffee following the service.

On **October 21**, we will be holding a **Boston Bound Brunch fundraiser**. Please come with an appetite! We will have delicious breakfast casseroles, salads, and fruit. All our fundraising efforts support our travelers on their Heritage Trip this coming June!

On Sunday, **October 28**, we will be holding our annual **Halloween Parade** at the beginning of the service during the Prelude. Children and youth should come dressed in costume and gather in their classrooms with their teachers before the service. We will have a box of costumes and props available in the fellowship hall. Following the parade, children and youth will join their parents in the sanctuary – so please hold a seat for them. Following the *Story for All Ages*, classes will begin.

This month we will be kicking off UUCM’s **Our Whole Lives (OWL) 10-12 grade Sexuality Education** program! Our Opening Session is on Sunday, **October 21 from 12:30-2:30**. Parents of participants, must have attended one of our September Orientations. Our certified OWL facilitators are **Ben & Denise Ewing**.

**Nadine**

### RE Snacks

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.

## Fall Youth Schedule

*Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd*  
*Coordinator of Youth Programs*

Once again Youth Sunday is not to be missed! October 14th will be a celebration of the wisdom and insight of some of the most wonderful people that I have ever known. Come, sing, share and be transformed!

### October and November Youth Schedule

October 13, 2-4:00 pm  
*Youth Sunday Rehearsal*

October 14  
*Youth Sunday*

October 26, 5-10:00 pm  
*First CoA Redux Evening*

This exciting program will kick off in October and run every other month throughout the year. We will revisit the major themes of Coming of Age with fresh eyes to discuss the ways in which our thinking has evolved and reflect on our own growth. We will conclude the program by revising (or writing) our faith statements.

Note: Previous schedules had planned for a youth group meeting on October 28th. As this is the day that the church is transformed into our Bazaar, we will not hold youth group but all youth are encouraged to help with this important task!

November 4, 12:30 – 2:00 pm  
*Combined Youth Group*

November 9-11  
*CONtagious at All Souls - High School Youth Group*

November 11, 12:30 – 2:00 pm  
*Middle School Youth Group*

November 18, 12:30 – 2:00 pm  
*High School Youth Group*

**Elizabeth**

## Splinters from the Board

*Exploring faith. Practicing inclusivity. Living justice.*

The Board of Trustees recently had a day-long retreat. At the retreat, we worked on our relationship with each other using team building exercises, exploring communication styles and issues of trust, setting Board goals, and creating a relational agreement.

What was the conversation about creating a relational agreement? Over the last several years, the Board has had a covenant which was created and modified at each Board retreat. Our practice was to read it at the beginning of each Board meeting.

But...some Board members found the word "covenant" a problem because of its religious context. Not a lot of time was spent discussing the word covenant. My opinion is if the word is a problem, let's look for a way to express the concept with a more agreeable term. I personally don't have a problem with the term, but I really had not thought of it in a religious context. I'm more of a science fiction and fantasy fiction nut so my context has been formed from these. (Did you know that Covenant is the name of an episode of both Star Trek: Deep Space Nine and Stargate SG-1 plus a fantasy fiction series, *The Chronicles of Thomas Covenant* by Stephen R Donaldson?)

I looked for definitions of covenant after the retreat. Wikipedia looks at the term dependent upon context. In the law it is "a promise to engage in or refrain from a specified action (including restrictive covenant, a restriction on the use of property)"; in religion, "a formal alliance or agreement made by God with a religious community or with humanity in general."

A view from the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary offers the noun definition as "a usually formal, solemn, and binding agreement" or "a written agreement or promise usually under seal between two or more parties especially for the performance of some action."

The Board decided upon the phrase relational agreement instead of covenant and decided it was not necessary to read it at each meeting as long as it was included on the agenda to remind us of our relationship with each other.

So what the heck is a relational agreement? Here's one definition from Wikipedia that I like:

A relational agreement is "a contract whose effect is based upon a relationship of trust between the parties to which it pertains. The explicit terms of the contract are just an outline as there are implicit terms and understandings which determine the behavior of the parties."

This is the Board's Relational Agreement. The explanations are my ideas of what it means so my apologies to any Board member who thinks I have it wrong.

*We promise to:*

- *Practice clear and transparent communication with each other and the congregation;*

It's clear to me some people think the Board acts in secrecy. I personally have not thought that but then I have been a Board member several times. The hope of clear and transparent communication is the works of the Board will be more public. If people know what's going on then there is less of a perception of secrecy. The whole idea is to work on building trust among all of us. The Board is working on better communication and you will have to do your part also.

The agenda will be published in the eBlast and online ahead of the meetings. The minutes are being caught up and all current minutes are available online. You can get a copy from Christie if you do not have computer access.

You'll probably have to read *Splinters from the Board* in the Unigram on a regular basis. You'll also have to make room in your busy schedules to attend the semiannual Congregational meetings and on occasion, the monthly meetings of the Board and the Program Council.

- *Maintain confidentiality of board conversations and communications where appropriate;*

The workings of the Board are public. There are times, however, when confidentiality is required specifically for personnel and litigation issues. The Board uses an executive session to discuss these issues. The conversations are private, but any motions that result from these conversations are public and will be published in Board meeting

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## Splinters from the Board

(continued from page 5)

minutes. In addition, if someone speaks to me and asks for the conversation to be confidential, it will be. The same goes for all of your Board members.

- *Publicly support the work of the Board;*

This statement doesn't mean the members of the Board don't disagree. It means we vote and the majority vote rules. You could hear me say I may not have agreed but the Board voted and I will support the vote of the majority. It's not called win or lose. It's called understanding that in any group there will be different opinions and compromise is required for us to get along.

- *Model responsible leadership and UU values to the congregation;*

One of my favorite aphorisms attributed to Mahatma Gandhi is "You must be the change you wish to see in the world." One of the reasons I am a Unitarian Universalist is our seven principles. You should read them every once in a while. They are what I think of as responsible leadership and UU values. They are the change I personally wish to see in the world.

- *Fulfill our role as duly elected representatives of the congregation.*

You have elected your Board of Trustees to represent you in the work of the congregation. Our responsibilities are listed in Article X, Section 3 of the By-laws. I hold up two of our responsibilities here but you should go ahead and read the By-laws (with a cup of coffee in hand.)

The Board is responsible to "oversee the total life of the church, guiding and evaluating its functions." This one makes me really nervous. It is so big but I know the Board is not alone. We depend upon the standing committees to manage our functions. The Program Council helps coordinate. The Committee on Ministries is tasked with managing the evaluations. Your participation on the committees of this church is paramount to the success of our congregation.

The Board is also responsible to "approve and enforce policies and procedures." Are you aware we have a Policy and Procedure manual? (It's online; ask Christie for a paper copy if you need one.) This document is continually being reviewed. Your Board works diligently

to represent the needs of the congregation in this document. An attempt is made to clearly define policies and to provide procedures to help everyone understand how to get the work of our congregation done. It's our attempt to say what we do and do what we say. If you see any errors in this document, let us know. The Board will consider your suggestions and make the appropriate changes.

So the Board has a relationship with each other and we have tried to clearly express the trust we have with each other. You may want to consider the relationship of trust we all have with each other too.

**Mary Johnson Robey, president**

### Congregational Meeting October 21

UUCM's annual fall business congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, October 21, 2018, 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 October 12 to fulfill the voting member requirement. The agenda is published below. Absentee ballots will be available upon request to the church office beginning October 5. Completed ballots must be received in the office by

**Friday, October 19, at 12:30 pm.**

**UUCM Congregational Business Meeting Agenda listed on [page 11](#).**

## AUTUMN TREASURES at the BAZAAR in the WOODS

*Saturday, November 3, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm*

Questions / Suggestions / Concerns / How to get involved:  
 Contact Co-Chairs **Bruce Craig** ([bwcraig@icloud.com](mailto:bwcraig@icloud.com) / 215-8426)  
 or **Annemarie Voss** ([annemarievoss@mac.com](mailto:annemarievoss@mac.com) / 610-3166)

The UUCM Bazaar is the oldest continuous church bazaar in Muncie. It's also our biggest fundraiser of the year. It takes the entire church to make this annual event successful.

### **WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

- Watch for announcements in the e-blast and order of service / Contact a Co-Chair to sign up.
- Pick up Bazaar bookmarks at church and give them to friends, coworkers and acquaintances.
- Check the UUCM FaceBook page and website for photos and updates. Share the Bazaar event post <https://www.facebook.com/events/267070804145994/>. Tweet about the bazaar.
- Look for the bazaar sign-up sheets on the bulletin board at the church and volunteer for a time and activity.
- Check your closets, jewelry box, attic and garage for items to donate to the 2018 Bazaar – ENCORE! Fashion Boutique / Food/Christmas Holiday items / Jewelry / Collectibles / This & That objects / Children's Corner / Tool Shop / Books & Media.
- Silent Auction: Look through your attic, garage, boxes, drawers, and closets for things you no longer need but would be a treasure for someone else. Find your donation, measure it, and write a description. The Silent Auction booth outlines its booth space early. When you have donation information, please email or call Bruce Craig. The sooner the better!
- Special Need: Our stock of jewelry is low. Consider downsizing your collection and donating little worn pieces to the Jewelry Booth.
- Special Need: Our food booth always sells out. Baked goods, frozen meals, jams, jellies, relishes, noodles...you name it, they'll buy it! Be sure to include a label with your name, ingredients, and suggested price.
- Special Need: UU gardeners, start rooting your cuttings and potting your plants before the first frost.
- Special Need: A team of Greeters to welcome our guests at the front and back doors. Contact a bazaar co-chair to volunteer or sign up on the bazaar bulletin board.
- Buy raffle tickets any Sunday morning at church.

***If we work together, our BAZAAR in the WOODS will be overflowing with Autumn Treasures.***

FaceBook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/uuchurchmuncie/> Website: [www.uuchurchmuncie.org](http://www.uuchurchmuncie.org)

### **Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America**

Over the summer, the Social Justice Committee began partnering with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. As partners, we encourage our UU membership to participate in Moms Demand Action events, which we did through Wear Orange Day, two Adult RE sessions on gun laws, and through making Moms Demand Action UUCM's Designated Offering for September.

On October 14th, our Boston Bound teens will be holding a Bake Sale during coffee hour. We invite you on that Sunday, following the service, to pick up some goodies and a cup of tea or coffee and bring it to the Sanctuary to attend a viewing of "Be Smart: A Twenty Minute Conversation About Kids, Guns, And Safety." The Muncie Chapter of Moms Demand Action has two goals — gun safety education and safe and responsible gun ownership advocacy. We on the Social Justice Committee hope we can all join Moms Demand Action, come to the Be Smart Training, and support Moms Demand Action in whatever ways you can.

## Creating Sanctuary

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

relationships, whether it's family or friends, we have a certain level of expectations that typically aren't formalized. When we become friends with one another, we typically don't sit down and say, "ok, time to draw up our agreement about how we're going to relate to one another. First rule, we are respectful of one another. Second rule, we agree to not take ourselves too seriously. Third rule..." And yet part of what makes good friendships good is that most of the time, we treat each other in ways that line up with our shared values.

Sometimes though, even in the best relationships, it's good to have an actual explicit agreement. One of the explicit agreements we have in our family is "no name calling." Name calling was not a major problem for us, this was not an agreement that transformed our household from one where name-calling happened all the time to one where it never occurred. But even in the best relationships there are arguments sometimes, or people lose their tempers. So after thinking about it together, and reflecting on our values, we agreed that name-calling, whether in the heat of an argument, or when someone's lost their temper, or even in jest – we agreed that name calling is never something we're ok with. So we have an explicit agreement: no name-calling in our relationship, and no name-calling in our family.

When any grouping of people, whether it's two, or twenty, create a series of these relational agreements, the theological term for that is a covenant – an agreement about how we aspire to relate with one another. Note that this is very different from a contract, which typically includes punitive measures if one or more parties fails to live up to the terms. Covenants are aspirational documents, about how we hope and strive to be together. And they can help create a sense and space of safety, not because there are promises that they will never be broken, but because the involved parties commit to bring the intention of both following through on the agreed upon behaviors, and the intention of making amends and trying again anew if they fall short. They can also help create that sense of safety because we don't all share the same set of assumptions about how to appropriately relate. Communication, for example, is one area in our American culture where we don't all share the same set of assumptions – some people communicate directly, others indirectly, others passive-aggressively. Creating an explicit set of shared expectations helps create a greater sense of safety.

In this spirit, the staff each year at our retreat creates a covenant together, of how we would like to try and relate to each other in the upcoming year. As the staff group evolves, so to has our covenant, and so it has been different each and every year. The staff was particularly proud of our covenant this year, and asked me to share it with the congregation. Here is what we came up with together. With explanations for bullet points that might be slightly less obvious, we covenanted to:

- Remember why we're here – to hold on to the purpose of what we're trying to accomplish at church, not losing track of the big picture of our mission and vision in face of day-to-day minutia
- Bring an intentionally positive perspective
- Be our best selves
- Support each other publicly and personally – this does not mean blind support, but supporting the person
- Have fun
- Bring our unique gifts to the community
- Communicate directly and with grace and kindness
- Assume the best intentions in others' actions

We covenanted to together, entered into this relational agreement, not with the understanding that no one would ever break this agreement, but with the understanding that this was how we were aspiring to relate to one another as we worked together this year.

If you read other articles in this Unigram, you might see that our Board President, Mary Johnson Robey, also wrote about covenant, and the Board's relational agreement that we created for this year. We did not both set out to write on the same topic, but I think it's worthy of reflection about why we both chose to do so. In some of the tensions that arose last year in our church community, we fell short of our values and did not relate to one another or disagree with one another with kindness and respect. Creating a covenant or relational agreement is one way to try and bring attention, intention, and awareness to how we're relating to one another. I hope that bringing attention, intention, and awareness to our relationships within our church community this year is something we can all spend a little bit of time on, because we are all worthy of love and kindness, even, and especially, when we disagree.

See you in church!

peace, love and blessings,

**Rev. Seth**



## A Tale of Two People

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

She was admitted for a couple of days “because she wouldn’t be able to care for herself.” Age was cited repeatedly as a causative factor. When she asked for better pain control and something to help her sleep, she was told it wasn’t possible to provide it because of her age. When she asked to see the x-rays, she was told they “couldn’t do that.” An alarm was attached to each ankle in case she tried to get out of bed. Two days later, when she was to be released from the hospital, the discharge planner did not consult her, and the only option offered to the woman was nursing home placement. She was told she absolutely could not return home because getting into the house required climbing stairs. She was also told that, due to her age, she would need to use a walker for the rest of her life. Nobody asked her what *she* thought about what she needed. Throughout the experience, hospital personnel usually talked with other people *about* her, rather than involving her in the conversation. There seemed to be a presumption that because she was older and disabled by her injuries, she was not competent to make decisions for herself. Fortunately, the woman was more mentally incompetent than people assumed. She refused nursing home placement, left the hospital and returned home, climbed the stairs into her house, and used a walker only when she herself felt it was necessary.

Let’s compare our two people. The individual in the first hypothetical scenario was male, young, and aside from having tumbled off a ladder, physical-abled. The second individual is female, older, had similar injuries, and was every bit as mentally competent as the man. If these stories were unique, I wouldn’t be telling them. The stories—and the contrast between them—are in fact all-too-common.

I’ve become increasingly aware lately of the ways in which cultural biases, prejudices and injustices intersect and play off one another. Racism, for example, usually isn’t *just* racism. It’s racism as it interacts with sexism, classicism, ageism, ableism and so forth. The various ways people are “out-grouped” in this culture pile up on each other. Similarly, white privilege is also about class privilege, ability privilege, national heritage, and young privilege. These things interact in such a way that the combined impact is far more harmful than the sum of

the separate effects. People who face discrimination usually face it along more than one dimension, and the more dimensions that intersect, the more dire their situation.

Formally, *intersectionality* refers to the interrelated nature of social categorizations as they apply to a given individual or group. It is not about who people are, but about the *meanings* the dominant culture ascribes to who they are. Together, they create complex, overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination and disadvantage. It is the compound, cumulative way in which the effects of multiple forms of discrimination (such as racism, sexism, ageism, homophobia, ableism and classism) combine, overlap and intersect in the experiences of marginalized individuals or groups. To be effective, we don’t have to address all these various dimensions and more all at once, but we must be aware of them and of the ways in which they reinforce and complicate each other.

The two dominant factors in our stories were age and sex. The situation would have been even worse had there also been racial, economic, or gender differences.

We will not change this situation quickly or easily. It’s too multifaceted for that. What we can do is address it at whatever points it speaks most to us. We can stand alongside those affected by it in their struggle to overcome it. We can also work to make our own beloved community a sanctuary for those whose lives are caught up in these interlaced patterns of discrimination. We can offer a place where people can let down their guard, knowing they are safe, whoever they are.

~Rev. Julia

[Note: the two medical experiences described at the beginning of this article occurred outside of Muncie.]



“Unitarianism” Harshman Panel  
Photo by Gunther Cartwright

## Sharing Gratitude

September 17<sup>th</sup> was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her date-of-hire for **Christie Williams**, our Office Administrator. We honored and celebrated Christie and all she has done for our church community during the Sunday service on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Christie, you are so important to the life of the church in helping us all get so many things done. We value you and appreciate all that you have contributed to our shared church life. Thank you.



I want to thank you all for making me feel so special and loved – in the celebration service on September 23, and always. Working with a talented staff that I adore, and for a congregation of incredible, kind people, is a gift that I am grateful for every single day. A very special “thank you” to **Seth Carrier-Ladd, Mary Johnson Robey, Jim Helton, and Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd**. The sweet words, gorgeous flowers, and surprise musical dedication touched me deeply. ~*Christie Williams*



*If you have a gratitude you'd like to submit for the next Unigram, please send it to [uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org), subject line "Sharing Gratitude."*

### Adult Discussion Group

**Every Sunday :: 9:30 am :: Red room**

*October 7, Alice Bennett* will lead a discussion on the 4th principle: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning. In order that we do this, it is important that we use science and reason in our considerations. Unfortunately, our society is moving in the direction of using ideologies and unfounded ideas to guide our lives. How can we instead use science and reasoning?

*October 14, Susan Bossung* will lead a discussion on how Social Media have changed our lives, especially our interpersonal communications.

*October 21, Leslie Duvall* will lead a discussion on the issue of Fake News.

*October 28, Mike Sullivan* will lead a discussion questioning white supremacy allegations in UUA, and exploring impacts on the Unitarian Universalist ministry in the future. In early March of 2018, the UUA's director of Congregational Life, the Rev. Scott Tayler, hired the Rev. Andy Burnette—senior minister of Valley UU Congregation in Chandler, Arizona, and a UUA trustee. He is a white man selected to replace Rev. Kenn Hurto, who is also a white man. News of Burnette's hiring emerged as UU Religious Professionals gathered in Baltimore for their annual retreat. At the retreat, one of the attendees, Christina Rivera (not a minister) told colleagues that she was a finalist for the job but was not selected because she was “not the right fit for the team.” The explanation exemplified white supremacy in the UUA and ultimately led to the resignation of Peter Morales, former president of the UUA.

### Long Range Planning Task Force

The Board of Trustees has created a task force to create a Long Range Plan for our church. The task force's current expected outcome of our work will be a short list of goals to which we as a congregation aspire and create a strategy to achieve.

Our task force will begin this process by collecting information from the congregation. Currently, we are working with committee chairs to visit meetings for a brief Question & Answer session. We look forward to meeting with you and hearing your insights throughout the fall and we will keep you updated on our progress.

“We know who we are, we know not what we may be.”  
Shakespeare

Hamlet Act IV Scene V

# October 2018 UUCM Calendar

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



## Regular Weekly Events

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

## October Events & Activities

|                                               |           |         |              |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|--------------|
| Social Justice Committee                      | Monday    | Oct 1   | 7:30 pm      |
| Stewardship Committee                         | Tuesday   | Oct 2   | 4:00 pm      |
| Worship Associates                            | Wednesday | Oct 3   | 7:00 pm      |
| Fall Retreat                                  | Fri – Sun | Oct 5-7 |              |
| Visitors Q&A                                  | Sunday    | Oct 7   | Noon         |
| Pastoral Associates                           | Tuesday   | Oct 9   | 5:15 pm      |
| Board of Trustees                             | Wednesday | Oct 10  | 6:30 pm      |
| Youth Sunday Rehearsal                        | Saturday  | Oct 13  | 2:00 pm      |
| Chalice Marketplace                           | Sunday    | Oct 14  | 10:15 & noon |
| Boston Bound Bake Sale                        | Sunday    | Oct 14  | Noon         |
| Be Smart :: A Conversation about Gun Safety   | Sunday    | Oct 14  | Noon         |
| Roots & Wings :: New Member Class             | Sunday    | Oct 14  | 12:15 pm     |
| Moms of Young Kids                            | Sunday    | Oct 14  | 12:15 pm     |
| New Member Gathering                          | Sunday    | Oct 14  | 5:00 pm      |
| Program Council                               | Wednesday | Oct 17  | 7:00 pm      |
| Committee on Ministries                       | Thursday  | Oct 18  | 7:15 pm      |
| Choir Rehearsal                               | Sunday    | Oct 21  | 10:00 am     |
| New Member Signing Ceremony                   | Sunday    | Oct 21  | 10:15 am     |
| Boston Bound Lunch Fundraiser                 | Sunday    | Oct 21  | Noon         |
| Adult Discussion Committee                    | Sunday    | Oct 21  | 12:15 pm     |
| <b>Congregational Meeting</b>                 | Sunday    | Oct 21  | 12:30 pm     |
| OWL 10-12 Opening Session                     | Sunday    | Oct 21  | 12:30 pm     |
| Unigram Submission Deadline :: November Issue | Wednesday | Oct 24  | 9:00 am      |
| Membership Committee                          | Thursday  | Oct 25  | 7:00 pm      |
| CoA Redux Evening                             | Friday    | Oct 26  | 5:00 pm      |
| Kitchen Cleaning                              | Saturday  | Oct 27  | 9:30 am      |
| OUTreach Fall Dance                           | Saturday  | Oct 27  | 7:00 pm      |
| Sack Lunches for Soup Kitchen of Muncie       | Sunday    | Oct 28  | 9:30 am      |
| Bazaar Set Up Begins!                         | Sunday    | Oct 28  | 12:30 pm     |

## UU Annual Fall Family Retreat

**Friday, October 5 to Sunday, October 7**

Join us this year for our annual Fall Family Retreat at beautiful Pokagon State Park! More information and sign-up sheets are available at church. This is a wonderful opportunity to have a relaxing fall weekend, and to get to know fellow UUs better. More information can also be obtained by calling or texting **Jan Mundell** at 765-730-9554.

## UUCM Congregational Business Meeting Agenda Sunday, October 21, 2018, 12:30 pm

- Call to Order
1. Approval of the Agenda
  2. Approval of Minutes from the May 20, 2018, Congregational Meeting
  3. Presentation of the financial report on the 2017-2018 fiscal year: Board Treasurer, **Jennifer Hollems**
  4. Election of Development and Investment Committee members: **Mary Johnson Robey**
- Adjournment

Note: Voting eligibility information on [page 6](#).

## UUCM Staff & Leadership

**Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister**

[seth@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:seth@uuchurchmuncie.org)

**Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister**

[julia@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:julia@uuchurchmuncie.org)

**Nadine Tringali, Director of Religious Education**

[nadine@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:nadine@uuchurchmuncie.org)

**Christie Williams, Office Administrator**

[christie@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:christie@uuchurchmuncie.org)

**Dr. James Helton, Director of Music**

[jim@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:jim@uuchurchmuncie.org)

**Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd, Coordinator of Youth Programs**

[elizabeth@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:elizabeth@uuchurchmuncie.org)

**Marcel Ramalho, Choir Director**

[marcel@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:marcel@uuchurchmuncie.org)

**Jennifer Carey, Membership Coordinator**

[jennifer@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:jennifer@uuchurchmuncie.org)

### Board of Trustees

**Mary Johnson Robey**

President

**Caroline Sullivan**

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**John Bartlett**

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**Brandon Mundell**

Secretary

**Jennifer Hollems**

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**Jerry McKean**

Past President

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

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie

4800 West Bradford Drive  
Muncie, IN 47304



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