



the UNIGRAM

Mystery: Embracing the Unknown

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister

In her address to the graduating class of 2014 of Naropa University, Buddhist nun and celebrated author Pema Chodron talks about the mystery of what is to come, the uncertainty facing so many of the graduates before her that day. Her address focused on failure, and the importance of failing well. In addressing failure, she talks about “welcoming the unwelcome” – how we have a tendency to avoid difficult experiences and feelings in our lives. And she quotes James Joyce’s “Ulysses,” sharing his observation that “mistakes can be ‘the portals of discovery.’”

What Chodron views to be true of failure, I think is also true of the unknown in our lives, the uncertain – the mystery. Life is full of transitions and changes, they are unavoidable. Nothing stays the same forever. As much as change is inevitable though, we often try to avoid it, or if unavoidable, we’re unhappy about it, or wish it weren’t so. And often that resistance is because we’re afraid of the unknown, of what might happen.

There is comfort to be found in what we know, in what we have, in what exists now, especially if what we have now feels good. Somewhat counterintuitively to our logical selves, we also often find comfort in what

(continued on page 8)

In This Issue

<u>Sunday Mornings</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Theme Exploration</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Religious Education News</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Splinters from the Board</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>2019-20 Stewardship</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Feedback Committee</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Sharing Gratitude</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>December Calendar</u>	<u>11</u>

The Trouble with Christmas

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

I have trouble with Christmas. There. I’ve spoken what’s true for me, knowing that it’s not at all culturally fashionable to have trouble with Christmas. It’s a little like saying you don’t like puppies or chocolate, both of which, incidentally, I do like. But there it is.

In the first place, I don’t have very good memories of childhood Christmases. Often, it was a more-than-usually tempestuous time in an already-stormy life. And with childhood innocence and naivete, I always thought *this* Christmas would be better. Until it wasn’t.

Fast-forward to adulthood. The Jesus story simply isn’t my story in the same way it is for Christians. Just as

Muhammad’s story isn’t my story in the same way it is for Muslims. And I can’t get into the cultural excesses of the season. It feels like the whole culture is having a party and I wasn’t invited. The profit-driven commercialization of it all saddens me. That stores have Christmas decorations and merchandise out before Halloween strikes me as ludicrous.

In the face of all that, I’d figured out what worked for me—minimalism, focusing on Solstice, the interplay of darkness and light, growth resting, a few carefully-selected Christmas concerts, and the quiet of land blanketed by fresh snowfall. Spending Christmas with my daughter and her family.

(continued on page 9)

Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

Service at 10:45 am

December Theme :: Mystery

Our December theme of Mystery invites us to consider the parts of life and our existence which are unknown and in some cases unknowable. We will hold our annual Santa Lucia service on Sunday, December 9th. Our Christmas Eve service will begin as usual at 7:00 pm, on the 24th.

December 2, 9, 16, 23 – Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd

Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve – Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd

December 30 – Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd

Religious Education for Children & Youth

Classes at 10:45 am

December 2 - Curriculum Sunday.

December 9 – Santa Lucia Ceremony - We will be preparing for our Santa Lucia processional in the service. MS and HS youth are invited to attend the service or help with the preparations.

December 16 – Special Guest & Curriculum Sunday.

December 23 - Multiage Social Action Sunday – Creating Cards for the Caring Committee

December 30 - Curriculum Sunday

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 “In Reverence Before Intangible Things” by Sophia Lyon Fahs:

We gather in reverence before the wonder of life—
 The wonder of this moment
 The wonder of being together,
 so close yet so apart—
 Each hidden in our own secret chamber,
 Each listening, each trying to speak—
 Yet none fully understanding, none fully understood.
 We gather in reverence before all
 intangible things—
 That eyes see not, nor ears can detect—
 That hands can never touch
 that space cannot hold,
 and time cannot measure.

Questions for Reflection

What was the first mystery to capture your imagination? How does that still shape you today?

What’s the most unprovable thing you place your faith in?

Pico Iyer says that “The opposite of knowledge isn’t always ignorance. It can be wonder. Or mystery. Possibility. And in my life, I’ve found it’s the things I don’t know that have lifted me up and pushed me forwards, much more than the things I do know.” When has “what you don’t know” pushed you forward into new possibilities and greater knowing?

Do you spend more time treating life like a problem to be solved, a game to be won, a struggle to be survived or a mystery to be lived?

Resources for Going Deeper

Article – “Living with Uncertainty in a Certainty- Obsessed Culture” by Maria Popova
<https://bit.ly/2E0Ntsx>

Article – “The Mystical Core of Organized Religion” by David Steindl-Rast
<https://bit.ly/2TO1fUd>

Spiritual Practice

We’ve all experienced it: the mystery of an ordinary moment that suddenly unfolds and offers deep meaning. The everyday becomes luminous. This exercise invites you to remember some of those luminous moments and revisit the gift they gave. To do this, simply make some time to watch and meditate on the following video:

“The Moment”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNVPaINZD_I

As you watch, think of moments you’ve experienced when life suddenly and mysteriously lit up and reminded you of the marvel and preciousness of being alive. And think about how that lit you up - move you from a feeling of “the same old, same old” to a feeling of dancing with the sacred. Go one from there to imagine images from your own life that you’d include if you were making your own video. Then keep watch during the following hours and days to see if this meditation changes the way you perceive or dance with your “ordinary” days.

~~~~~

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

## Religious Education Corner

*Nadine Tringali, Director of Religious Education*

This month our theme is **Mystery**. The Soul Matters curriculum that we are using this year has wonderful Family and Parent Resources to continue the discussion at home. I will be emailing the resources to RE families each month. Hard copies will be available on the Welcome kiosk in the foyer.

### Boston Bound Fundraisers

- Many thanks to everyone who purchased items at our Boston Bound Bazaar booth! We will continue to sell the **Harshman Cards** and **Harshman Ornaments** following the service each Sunday in the foyer through Sunday, December 23.
- Please pick up our **"Handy Helper" brochure**, which will be available on the Welcome Table in the foyer. Our youth are offering a variety of jobs, such as babysitting, baking, dog walking, house cleaning, leaf raking, and shoveling snow.
- We will be holding a **Bake Sale on Sunday, December 9**. Please stop by our booth for a delicious baked good to go with your coffee.
- On Sunday, **December 16**, we will be holding a **Soup Luncheon** fundraiser. Come with an appetite! We will have delicious soups, breads, and fruit.

### Santa Lucia Ceremony – Sunday, December 9

On Sunday, December 10, we will be holding our annual Santa Lucia Ceremony. This year, **Sarah Bartlett**, will be our Santa Lucia! Each year on a Sunday closest to December 13, we celebrate Santa Lucia in a ceremony where an elected girl, portraying Lucia, walks with a crown of candles ahead of a procession of star children each holding a golden star. The candles symbolize the light with which Lucia overcomes the darkness. There are many legends about Santa Lucia, and in each one Lucia stands as a symbol of light and hope to all mankind. Santa Lucia's coming begins the feasting, merriment, singing and the spirit of friendliness and goodwill that lasts all through the holidays. Following the procession, Santa Lucia will serve saffron buns to the congregation.

All children & youth (boys and girls) are invited to be star children. Star children wear white gowns with a wreath of gold garland on their head and hold a golden star as they follow our Santa Lucia in a procession through the sanctuary.

**Elsa and Marvin Reichle** brought this beautiful ceremony to our congregation in 1973. The crown of candles that Santa Lucia will be wearing is the original crown that Elsa bought in Sweden so

(continued on page 9)

## Winter Youth Schedule

*Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd*

*Coordinator of Youth Programming*

December 2, 12:30 - 2 pm

**High School Youth Group**

December 7, 5-10 pm

**COA Redux Evening**

Our high school age youth will revisit the most salient themes from Coming of Age for deeper conversation and a look at how they have evolved already in their understanding. These events include dinner and snacks.

December 9, 12:30 - 2 pm

**Middle School Youth Group**

December 16, 12:30 - 2 pm

**Combined Youth Group Holiday Party**

Join us for our annual holiday celebration, including special treats and a White Elephant! Please bring a wrapped gift costing no more than \$10 to exchange. Homemade gifts are encouraged!

January 6, 12:30 - 2 pm

**Combined Youth Group**

January 12, 1 pm - January 13, 9 am

**Black Panther Lock-In**

We will gather for an overnight to unpack and discuss the major themes of the Marvel universe blockbuster Black Panther, culminating with us watching the film together. Middle and High School Youth are all invited!

January 20, 12:30 - 2 pm

**Combined Youth Group**

January 27, 7:30 pm

**RENT at Emens Auditorium**

Eighteen of us will be sitting together in a big block of wonderful tickets to see this incredible play!

**Elizabeth**

## Splinters from the Board

*Exploring faith. Practicing inclusivity. Living justice.*

It occurs to me not everyone knows what the Board of Trustees is doing. The agenda and minutes are published each month but quite frankly, it's a lot of reading. Some come to the Board meetings to observe and to offer opinions which I welcome... but I thought it would be good, almost half way through our church year, to report on what is currently happening.

The Feedback Committee was formed to provide a methodology for people to provide either positive or negative feedback about what is happening at the church. The committee consists of **Bea Sousa, Steve Chalk, Ben Ewing, Nan Barber, and Kirk Robey**. At least one member of the committee will be at a table in the back of the sanctuary before and after the Sunday service. The feedback will be routed to the appropriate individual or committee and a response will be provided. If a person is not satisfied with the response, the issue can be escalated to the Board to act as a mediator.

A group has been formed to review the UUCM Child Safety Policy and another group is in the process of being formed to review building safety and security. These groups are being chaired by **John Bartlett**. If you have an interest in working with John on building safety, please contact him. The results of both committees will be published in the Policy and Procedure Manual.

Members of the Development & Investment Committee were voted on at the October congregational meeting. The committee now consists of **Jane Duckworth, Bill Frederick, Lynn Austin, Lynn Sousa** (representing the Finance Committee) and **Jennifer Hollems** (representing the Board of Trustees.) Over the years people have donated money to the church to set up investment accounts for the benefit of the UUCM. This committee oversees these investments with the assistance of Indiana Trust who administers them. A document is being prepared to describe the funds and the purposes for which they may be used.

A Long Range Planning Committee was started last year and is currently interviewing committees of the church to develop a report for the Board of Trustees by the end of the current year.

The Board has hired a new Membership Coordinator, **Jennifer Carey**, and a new Choral Director, **Marcel Ramalho**. If you have not met them yet, stop by the welcome desk or come to a Sunday Service when the choir is singing to introduce yourself.

A Sabbatical Committee has been created to manage activities for the congregation during Rev. Seth's sabbatical. They will be publishing information about the sabbatical and coordinating congregational activities. Watch for a brochure explaining the sabbatical and advertisements for a wide variety of activities.

A Sabbatical Minister Search Committee has been created to advertise the sabbatical minister position, interview potential candidates, and recommend a candidate to Board. The Board will interview this person and decide whether or not to hire her/him or to continue looking. The members of the committee are **Mike Sullivan, Bea Sousa**, and myself with **Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd** and **Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer** serving as nonvoting ex-officio members. The committee has identified some candidates and will be conducting interviews soon.

The Board is not the only group staying busy. Our members and friends are busy with welcoming new visitors, cooking turkeys, making coffee for us to enjoy on Sunday mornings, providing pastoral care for members in need, assisting with Sunday morning services, washing windows, putting up holiday decorations, teaching children's RE classes, organizing Dinner Discussion groups, participating in connection groups, practicing choral music, managing rummage sales, coordinating meals for the Sleeping Room, planning our pledge drive... if you have some time and want to be involved, please let me know. I'll point you in the right direction.

In loving kindness,

**Mary Johnson Robey, president**

## News From Committee on Ministries (COM)

Last year, the COM worked with the Board of Trustees to present the Listening and Suggestion Sessions. This year, we are returning to our usual function of evaluating the church's ministries and aiding committees in reaching their goals. Our plan is to enable the congregation to ascertain how we are functioning in relation to our Mission and Vision Statement. The minister, the staff, standing committees, special committees, and task forces are included in this assessment.

From researched materials gathered last year, we are constructing an evaluation form that can be universally used. Each part of the congregation will evaluate itself and the Committee on Ministries will provide feedback. Congregational feedback will be solicited via our new feedback process.

We believe a process of using information gathered from the Listening and Suggestion Sessions along with the evaluation data will enable us to provide a comprehensive assessment of our congregation's health.

Submitted by **Linda McKean**



"St. John's" Harshman Panel  
Photo by Gunther Cartwright

## Stewardship :: Daring to Give

The Stewardship Committee wants to express our gratitude to everyone for their generosity during this 2018 year. Thank you!

In numerous ways our UUCM community steps up when needed and when asked. Many in the UUCM congregation dedicate time, share their expertise and support generously to the well-being of this church.

Our committee is now organizing for the 2019-2020 community Stewardship Campaign.

**Beginning in January:** Please watch your mail, read weekly eBlasts and Orders of Service, and check out the monthly Unigram for details of Stewardship.

**MARK your calendars now** for two special Stewardship Sunday services in 2019: **the official kickoff is February 3, followed by the All Congregational Giving Sunday, February 10.** We hope everyone will come and make their pledge on Giving Sunday.

Wishing you the happiest of holiday seasons. May your time with family and friends be filled with great food, drink, smiles and giggles. You are treasures!

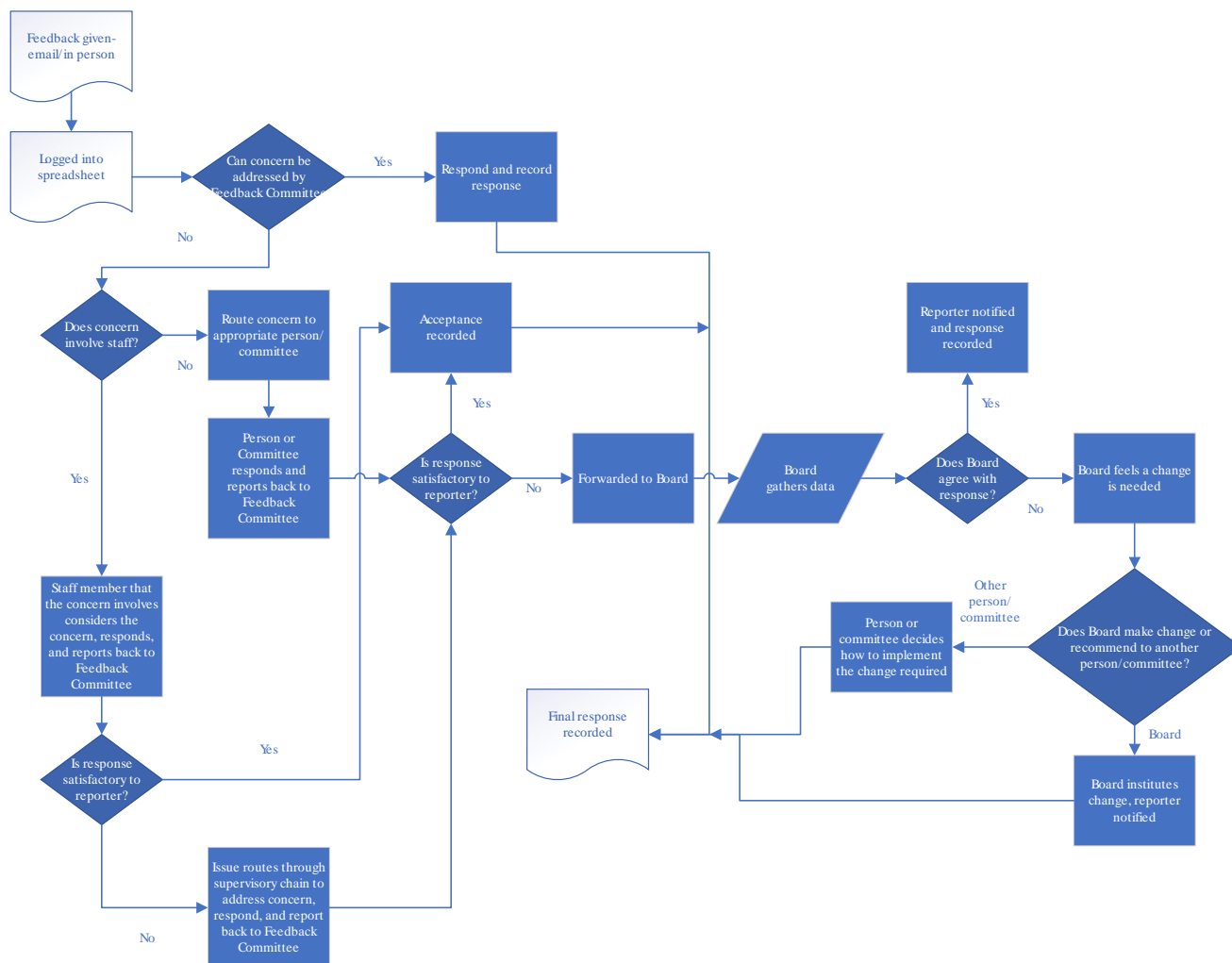
*"During this season, choose to live with Gratitude, for the Love that fills your heart, the Peace that rests within your spirit, and the voice of Hope that says ... All things are Possible." – unknown*

2019-2020 Stewardship Committee

**Nan Barber ▪ Holly Hanauer ▪ Linda McKean ▪ Bea Sousa ▪ Katie Frederick**

***Dream it ▪ Dare it ▪ Do it***

## UUCM Feedback Committee



The flowchart depicted above illustrates the procedure that members of the new Feedback Committee will follow in response to reports from members and friends of the congregation. Our highest priority is routing topics to the person or committee most responsible. Though the flowchart leans heavily on the word “concern,” we also welcome reports that highlight positive developments. As noted in the November 11 spotlight announcement at church, those reporting must attach their names, in order to promote a spirit of trust, transparency, and fellowship. Committee members may act as mediators, but will not accept anonymous reports. A member of the Committee (identified with a light-blue name tag inscribed with “Feedback Committee”) will staff a table at the back of the sanctuary each Sunday, for fifteen minutes before and fifteen minutes after the service. Thanks for making this new initiative a tool for effective communication within the UUCM!

If you would like a larger version of the flow chart you may pick one up from the table in front of the church office or email [christie@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:christie@uuchurchmuncie.org) and we’ll send you a copy.

## Mystery: Embracing the Unknown

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

we know, in what we have, in what exists now, even when that doesn't feel good. Whether it's good or not, we often find comfort and safety in what is familiar – even if a change might bring better things.

Some changes we have no choice about. You can't stay an undergraduate forever, though I've known a handful of people who've done their damndest to try.

Eventually, you have to move on, and face the future, whatever it may bring. Other changes we can avoid – we have a pretty decent job, why go looking for one that might be better? We're in a relationship that is fine, safe, easy, but is not fulfilling in other ways – sometimes it feels safer and better to stay, instead of risking what you might find out there.

Embracing uncertainty, embracing the unknown, though, doesn't have to be an all or nothing proposition. I had a friend, back in the day, who reminded me every so often that “you always need to leave room for magic in your life.” His point, of course, was that you can't have your life be so full that there isn't room for something new and wonderful to come in. There's a direct connection there with embracing the unknown – if you leave room for magic, you're leaving room for the unknown, for the uncertain, for mystery. To live into his saying of leaving room for magic, you have to be willing to embrace the mystery, to embrace the unknown. To embrace this bit of wisdom in fact also means that you're not only willing to embrace the unknown, but even to go as far as to be excited about it – something that you don't know yet will bring wonderful, magical things to your life!

Just over a year ago, I had one of these experiences. Many of you know that my wife, Elizabeth, in addition to being a minister, also happens to be a yoga teacher. And for most of our relationship, she's been gently suggesting to me every so often that I should try yoga, that I'd probably really like it. I kept brushing her off, month after month, year after year, mostly because I was telling myself that I was too busy. I kept saying “maybe, sometime, sure, but not right now.” Underneath though, I was skeptical, and maybe even a little bit afraid. Which doesn't make any sense really, but it was true. I generally pride myself on being willing to try almost anything once, and here was something

that was important to someone I cared about that I wasn't even willing to try once, based primarily on my own fear of the unknown, a fear that I wasn't even consciously able to name or admit to myself. Finally, just over a year ago on Thanksgiving week, I gave in, and went to a yoga class with her. And I've been hooked ever since – it is now one of the most important things I do in my life for physical and spiritual renewal.

This is my hope for you, and for us, as we explore our theme of Mystery together this month. I hope you can leave room, or create space, for magic and mystery in your life. I hope you can embrace a little bit of uncertainty, or try something new, so that you might discover something exciting that maybe you hadn't even dreamed of before. And maybe together, if we leave room for magic and mystery in our lives as a community – maybe together we can find something new and exciting too!

See you in church!

peace, love and blessings,

**Rev. Seth**



***The UUCM Staff wishes you a peaceful and joyful holiday season.***



## The Trouble with Christmas

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

Then, I met and married Tom. My husband comes from a big family and a long tradition of over-the-top Christmas decorating and activity. As we blended our traditions, we have maintained that to a significant extent. To my minimalist eyes and personality, a lot of it looks like clutter. A wreath, some candles, and a holiday tablecloth would do nicely, thank you.

Despite all this, especially as I've gotten older, I've at least made an uneasy peace with it all. And a large part of that is my deepening appreciation of the ways in which the mysteriousness of life pokes through our days in the most ordinary of ways. The biblical account of Jesus' birth reminds me that he was born as a helpless, squalling baby, the most ordinary *and* miraculous of events. Yet the shepherds and magi came, and wondered, awestruck. No understanding of human reproductive biology lessens how breathtaking the creation of a whole new human being is.

My husband's family background is Catholic Christian, and we have a nativity set that has its special place on the sideboard in our dining room. As I set the stable out, rearranging the straw that was jumbled during storage, and position the figures, I catch a sense of the quiet of Christmas, the hush of night, the hovering mystery.

I do enjoy Christmas carols, although I struggle with the theology of many of them, and with their ceaselessly being played in stores. But I've discovered instrumental renderings of those melodies on traditional instruments such as dulcimers, folk guitars, lutes and mandolins. I am fond of Christmas carols played on bagpipes, too, which mysteriously touch something in my Scottish genes.

As UU Ministers Association President Cheryl M. Walker noted in a recent newsletter, this time of year with its unrelenting emphasis on happiness, good cheer, and joy and does not leave space for the sadness, anger, and despair we may feel due to personal, national or global circumstances. We can nonetheless hold space for ourselves and for others to feel what we feel and to know that it's OK. We can witness each other's reality, whatever it is. That might

just be the greatest Christmas gift we can give someone, or ourselves.

I also hold close what is important to me in this season around the edges of our blended traditions. I can pause in all the clutter and busyness to note what's always been central to me in this time: the turning of the seasons and the importance of the fallow time of winter. Winter's fallow time calls me to the experience of mystery. It's cold, seemingly lifeless, barren. Nonetheless, beneath the apparent lifelessness, important things are happening. Seeds are resting, maturing so that they can come forth in the green shoots of spring. Animals are hibernating, or have migrated to warmer climates, preparing to awaken or to return. While some have left or hidden themselves away, others, like the little juncos in their bird-sized tuxedos, have returned.

Solstice has always been more significant for me than Christmas. I'm much happier when there is more light. I celebrate the lengthening of days, the return of the light that has diminished over the previous months. I welcome its promise of warmth. As I light candles, I recall the mystery of how the light always returns. No matter what my intellectual understanding of the physics of solstice is, I'm struck again by the way it opens out into something greater in its transcendence of the ordinary.

Whatever your traditions, whatever your hopes and dreams and needs for this complicated season may be, know that we're all held in an endless web of life and in the blessing of community.

~Rev. Julia

---

## Religious Education Corner (continued from page 4)

many years ago! Many thanks to the Reichle family for sharing this tradition with us! *If you would like to help Liz Lowe and I with the shaping and decorating of saffron buns on Saturday, December 8, please join us at the church at 1:00.*

**On Sunday, December 16, a special guest wearing a red suit, will be visiting!**

**Nadine**

## Sharing Gratitude

Once again this church was changed from a place of worship to a bazaar celebration. The work involved in the conversion each year brings us together and strengthens our fellowship. There are too many people to thank individually with this message, but the Bazaar Planning Committee wants to THANK all of you who helped make this year's bazaar a success. Your hard work, dedication, and shopping enabled us to raise \$13,694.16, which includes \$1,195.42. from the Rummage sale.

Again, THANK YOU ALL AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The Bazaar Planning Committee: **Bruce & Judy Craig, Annemarie Voss, Sue Errington, Holly Hanauer, Jan & Ron Moore, Maggie Bartlett, Robert Guillaud, Eli Butterbaugh, David Calvin, and Jane Meyer**, who headed the Rummage sale. ~**Bruce Craig**

*Editor's note: Additionally, thank you to the Bazaar Planning Committee for all the work you all did in making the Bazaar happen. We know you put in many, many extra hours, and we appreciate you and all you did to make this year's Bazaar such a success!*

Many thanks to the person who found my cell phone in the church parking lot the afternoon before the Bazaar. What a relief. ~**Bea Sousa**



*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."*

### UU Book Group

The UU Book Group will be discussing *Waiting for Snow in Havana: Confessions of a Cuban Boy* by Carlos Aire (2003), on Thursday, December 13, at 7:00 pm, at the home of **Annemarie Voss.**

### Adult Discussion Group

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

December 2 – "Are You Ready for Christmas?" A discussion led by **Wayne Meyer**, inspired by "Why I Don't Do Christmas," by Krista Tippett, host of "On Being" on National Public Radio. How much Christmas – especially in the wake of Black Friday – will you do? Do you need to do? Do you really want to do? Let's discuss it freely. (It won't cost you anything!) "*Getting and spending/we lay waste our powers.*" – Wm. Wordsworth

December 9 – **Alice Bennett** will lead a discussion of the ideas presented in Tim Keller's book *The Reason for God*. Reviews say that the book was written for skeptics and believers alike.

December 16 – **George Wolfe** will lead a discussion of insights gained in the political process from running as Green Party Candidate as Secretary of State.: a consideration of the viability of third-party alternatives and how to best live out our principles.

December 23 – Reflections on Mystery, the theme of the month. Leader TBA

December 30 – Year-end Reflections.

## December 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 (no dinner Dec 25 or Jan 1)    | 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 |

### December Events & Activities

|                                         |           |        |              |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|--------|--------------|
| Tree Trimming Party                     | Sunday    | Dec 2  | Noon         |
| Visitors Q&A                            | Sunday    | Dec 2  | Noon         |
| New Member Gathering                    | Sunday    | Dec 2  | Noon         |
| High School Youth Group                 | Sunday    | Dec 2  | 12:30 pm     |
| Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force | Monday    | Dec 3  | 7:00 pm      |
| Social Justice Committee                | Monday    | Dec 3  | 7:30 pm      |
| Choir Rehearsal                         | Tuesday   | Dec 4  | 7:30 pm      |
| Worship Associates                      | Wednesday | Dec 5  | 7:00 pm      |
| Program Council                         | Wednesday | Dec 5  | 7:00 pm      |
| CoA Redux Evening                       | Friday    | Dec 7  | 5:00 pm      |
| Saffron Bun Baking                      | Saturday  | Dec 8  | 1:00 pm      |
| Choir Rehearsal                         | Sunday    | Dec 9  | 10:00 am     |
| Chalice Marketplace                     | Sunday    | Dec 9  | 10:15 & noon |
| Boston Bound Bake Sale                  | Sunday    | Dec 9  | Noon         |
| Roots & Wings :: New Member Class       | Sunday    | Dec 9  | 12:15 pm     |
| Middle School Youth Group               | Sunday    | Dec 9  | 12:30 pm     |
| Stewardship Committee                   | Tuesday   | Dec 11 | 3:30 pm      |
| Pastoral Associates                     | Tuesday   | Dec 11 | 5:15 pm      |
| Board of Trustees                       | Wednesday | Dec 12 | 6:30 pm      |
| OWL Overnight                           | Saturday  | Dec 15 | 1:00 pm      |
| New Member Signing Ceremony             | Sunday    | Dec 16 | 10:15 am     |
| Boston Bound Lunch Fundraiser           | Sunday    | Dec 16 | Noon         |
| Adult Discussion Committee              | Sunday    | Dec 16 | 12:15 pm     |
| Combined Youth Group Holiday Party      | Sunday    | Dec 16 | 12:30 pm     |
| Caroling for the Whole Family           | Tuesday   | Dec 18 | 6:00 pm      |
| Committee on Ministries                 | Thursday  | Dec 20 | 7:00 pm      |
| Candlelight Service                     | Monday    | Dec 24 | 7:00 pm      |
| Christmas Carry-In                      | Tuesday   | Dec 25 | 1:00 pm      |
| Membership Committee                    | Thursday  | Dec 27 | 7:00 pm      |
| Sack Lunches for Soup Kitchen of Muncie | Sunday    | Dec 30 | 9:30 am      |



### Caroling for the Whole Family

If you enjoy singing, mark your calendars for Tuesday, December 18. We will meet at the church at 6:00 pm, to distribute lyric sheets and directions, then we will carpool to our various members who now live in retirement homes or are otherwise shut in. After caroling, we'll return to the church for some refreshments and fellowship. This is a wonderful activity for the whole family! If you have questions, please contact Jim [jim@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:jim@uuchurchmuncie.org).

### Christmas Eve

Our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service is a beautiful and moving annual event. It's also a time for a bit of socializing after the service. The Fellowship Committee provides beverages and asks for your help in providing sweet and savory snacks following the service, which begins at 7 pm, Monday, December 24. If you have an abundance of holiday snacks, please share for the service.

### Office Holiday Schedule

The office will be closed for holiday break December 24 – January 1. Please submit all publicity items for eBlasts, Sunday announcements, and the January Unigram by 9:00 am, Wednesday, December 19.

## 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**

President Elect

**John Bartlett**

Vice President

**Brandon Mundell**

Secretary

**Jennifer Hollems**

Treasurer

**Jerry McKean**

Past President

765.288.9561 | [uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org) | [www.uuchurchmuncie.org](http://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

4800 West Bradford Drive  
Muncie, IN 47304



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

Return Service  
Requested

**DATED MATERIAL**