



# the UNIGRAM

## Farewell

*Joel Tishken, Sabbatical Minister*

“According to psychologists, a crush lasts on average for four months, if feelings persist beyond that, one is considered to be ‘in love’.” This quote is from the website [factualfacts.com](http://factualfacts.com). If it’s not just a fact, but a factual fact, it must be true, yes? Well, despite the website’s claim that their facts are factual, I find this statement not accurate. For starters, the website cites no sources beyond “psychologists.” Without reference to where the information is coming from, it’s just another unsubstantiated sentence on the internet. Also, I loved you all long before my four months as sabbatical minister was over. And I was feeling loved by you. These four months have gone fast. I have enjoyed my time with you. It was a pleasure and honor to be your minister.

I arrived as the sabbatical minister in February struggling in a number of ways. I was struggling with making a decision about my professional future. I was struggling with my self-confidence. And I was struggling with my sense of ministerial authority and presence. I remain conflicted about my professional future. However, that is not the case on the latter two counts. I depart with renewed self-confidence and with an increased belief in myself as a minister and preacher. Thank you for those gifts. And

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## Moving Forward with Intention

*Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister*

Times of transition often lead me to reflection. Our congregation is about to transition from Rev. Seth being on sabbatical and Joel Tishken being our sabbatical minister, to having Rev. Seth back with us. But this will not be simply “business as usual.” We will not be going back to how things were before Rev. Seth’s sabbatical, because *we* are different, and *he* is different. As the hymn says, “Life calls us on,” (Kendyl Gibbons/Jason Shelton). Life does not, at least in this instance, call us *back*. Don’t read more into this than I intend: life calls us to continual *renewal*, to make intentional the change that occurs anyway, no matter what that change turns out to be.

I don’t plan to address the systemic issues we face here. Some of those that seem particularly relevant to me as we move forward are change and stability (or continuity and change), financial support, managing expectations on the cusp between a pastoral and a program sized church, too few volunteers trying to do too much leading to burnout, and theological differences. Nor will I make any specific recommendations about what I think the best course of action is. I do think that we need to be as aware as we can be of our expectations and whether they are realistic, and to hold them flexibly rather than rigidly.

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## Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

**Service at 10:45 am**

**June Theme :: Beauty**

Our June theme of Beauty invites us to consider, among other questions: When did beauty first teach you something? When was beauty a doorway to the divine? What's something you know now about beauty that you didn't know when you were 16 years old? Is beauty a private thing for you? Or do you need to share it with someone for the experience to be complete?

Volunteer Appreciation Sunday will be on **June 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd will lead our service that day with the topic to be announced. Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd will be leading services on **June 9<sup>th</sup>** and **June 30<sup>th</sup>** with topics to be determined. On Father's Day, **June 17<sup>th</sup>**, we'll be visited by Rev. Bruce Russell-Jayne. He'll be offering a sermon titled, "A Father's Blessings." And finally Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer will be leading the service on **June 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

June 2 – Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd; Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

June 9 – Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd

June 16 – Rev. Bruce Russell-Jayne: "A Father's Blessings"

June 23 – Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer

June 30 – Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd

## Religious Education for Children & Youth

**Classes at 10:45 am**

**June 2 – Flower Sunday** Our youth will be planting flowers for the east entrance of the church. They will also decorate a flower pot to take home, with a flower of their choice.

**June 9 – Clay Day** Bring your creative spirit!

**June 16 – Game Day!** Come dressed to move! We will have activities set up outside, weather permitting.

**June 23 – Around the World and our 7 UU Principles** RE Summer Program begins!

**June 30 – Around the World and our 7 UU Principles**

## 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 9](#).

## Other Monthly Events

There are a variety of regular events on Sunday mornings at UUCM. Be sure to check the calendar for Youth Group meetings, 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 – Beauty

There is universal agreement that we all must make time to visit museums and sit before stunning sunsets. But seeking beauty there is not enough. Every religion agrees: The secret to encountering spiritual beauty is to visit and observe the unlikely places. Indeed, one could argue that this is the job of religion. It exists to teach us and to help us observe beauty in the less noticed places. So, yes, friends, by all means, get yourselves to the museum this month. Make time to gaze at the color-laced sky on your evening walks in the woods. But let's not forget to also visit the unlikely places and the beauty that awaits us there.

### Wise Words

Beauty is the object of longing. We're accustomed to thinking that it is the beautiful thing that causes desire to erupt in us, but perhaps that is not always, or even usually, the case. First, we long. We may not even be conscious of our longing, but because we long, what we long for eventually finds an object in the world, and upon that thing our hearts and imaginations become fixed. ~Crispin Sartwell

We must first allow ourselves to be captured by the goodness, truth, or beauty of something beyond and outside ourselves. Then we universalize from that moment to the goodness, truth, and beauty of the rest of reality, until our realization eventually ricochets back to include ourselves! ~Richard Rohr

Beauty has no function, no utility... It greases no wheels, it bakes no puddings. It is a gift of sheer grace, a gratuitous largesse. It must imply behind things a Spirit that enjoys beauty for its own sake and that floods the world everywhere with it... Our joy in it shows that we are in some sense kindred to the giver and revealer of it. ~Rufus Jones

### Questions for Reflection

What makes a beautiful soul? What do you do to beautify your own soul?

What's the most beautiful thing you've ever seen?

What did your family of origin teach you about what it means "to be beautiful"?

What if beauty isn't something we encounter but something we become?

Who in your life needs told they are a beautiful soul?

### Resources for Going Deeper

**Song:** *Beauty in The World* by Macy Gray  
<http://bit.ly/2I2TNzo>. And a beautiful cover version:  
<http://bit.ly/2MherRR>

**Video:** "Body Positivity or Body Obsession?"  
TED Talk <http://bit.ly/2QxoqB1>

**Article:** "Ugly: How Beauty was Built upon White Supremacy" by Vanessa Rochelle Lewis  
<http://bit.ly/2KgZooF> "In this essay for #BodyPositivityInColor, Vanessa Rochelle Lewis explores the concept of "ugly" and how it depends on white supremacist, colonialist, cisheteronormative, misogynistic, and ableist constructs of what defines beauty. She explores these ideas through history and how it exists and thrives within our current society."

### Spiritual Practice

The philosopher Blaise Pascal wrote, "In difficult times, carry something beautiful in your heart." These are indeed difficult times. They require courage, commitment, hope and self-love. And all of them are sustained by beauty. We find the courage to fight after falling in love with a beautiful vision to fight for. We maintain our commitment only by finding the beauty that nourishes us. We hold on to hope because experiences of beauty remind us that something in the universe is on our side. We withstand dehumanization when rooted deeply in the beauty of our own dignity. It's one of the most important secrets to successful social change and social survival: When we carry beauty, it carries us.

(continued on page 6)

## Religious Education Corner

*Nadine Tringali, Director of Religious Education*

We are offering a new congregational resource, *Soulful Home*, to all our RE families through the month of June. This new resource will provide ways for families to weave spiritual exploration into the routine spaces of the day. Soulful Home is about creating memorable and amazing moments with your family! Our theme this month is Beauty.

**Boston Bound Fundraisers** will conclude with a **Bake Sale on Sunday, June 9**. Please visit our booth and pick up a delicious baked good to go with your coffee or take home a treat for later!

On **Sunday, June 9**, we will be holding our **Boston Bound Commissioning Ceremony** for our travelers! Please plan to attend and send our eight youth travelers on their journey!

**Many thanks** to everyone for supporting our **Boston Bound travelers!** They will be leaving for Boston on June 13 and returning on June 16. They will be touring the UUA Headquarters and Kings Chapel, attending the Sunday service at Arlington Street Church, traveling to Concorde to visit Walden Pond, and traveling to Gloucester to tour the Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church whose members began gathering in 1779 and formed the first Universalist Church in the United States. They will also tour Boston in a Duck Boat, walk the Freedom Trail, and stretch their legs in Boston Commons. Thank you so much for supporting them through their many fundraisers and a Dedicated Offering! Your support makes their journey possible!

Our **RE Summer Program**, "All Around the World and our 7 UU Principles," written and facilitated by **Nicole Kaplan** begins on Sunday, June 23, and runs for nine consecutive Sundays ending on August 18. Classes begin following the Story for All Ages in the sanctuary and end at noon. Nicole will be leading a group class for our K-5th graders and **Maggie Bartlett** has volunteered to lead our preschool class. We need to have at least two volunteers each Sunday to assist the lead teachers, and if you would be interested in

signing up to be a substitute teacher if needed, that would be wonderful! Please contact me if you are interested. This is a great opportunity to meet the children and youth of our church and support our summer program and teachers! Middle and High school youth are also welcome to assist!

*Nadine*



## Youth Programs

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

### Creation Lock-In

Thursday, June 6, noon - Friday, June 7, noon

Join us as we explore the themes of creation. We will explore our own role in creativity, how it shapes us, and how it gives us a chance to change the world. We will learn about and practice creativity in a variety of ways. And we will snack and laugh and enjoy each other as we celebrate the end of the year with our gummy bear ritual!

### "This Is Me"

Saturday, June 29, 7 pm, Muncie Civic Theatre

Join us for this original piece created by teens about how to thrive through the ups and downs of this challenging and beautiful time.

<https://munciecivic.org/event/this-is-me/>

*Elizabeth*

## Service Auction Report

Thanks to over 100 offerings (a 40% increase from earlier auctions), and a herd of enthusiastic bidders and buyers, the 2019 Service Auction raised approximately \$14,000. The atmosphere in Fellowship Hall May 5<sup>th</sup> was noisy with excitement. In addition to the \$5000 budgeted for the auction, we needed to make up \$2000 of the Bazaar budget as well as \$3,500 in "miscellaneous" fundraising to end fiscal year 2018-19 (June 30) in the black. We accomplished that and more!

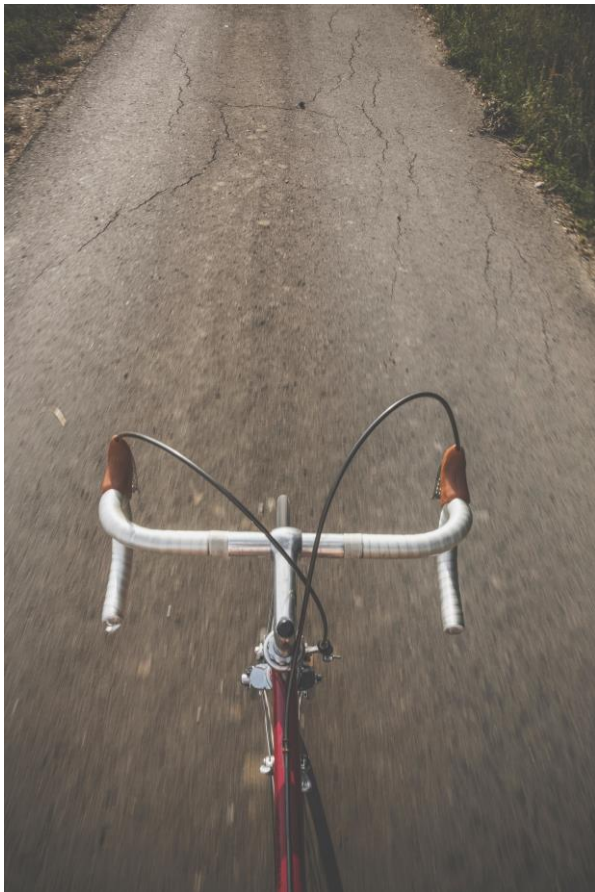
Let's give ourselves a congratulatory pat on the back.

And now the real fun begins as we share the gifts and talents we offered and purchased. Brownies and bread, new pockets and sharpened knives, dinners, excursions and cookouts... what a talented and generous bunch we are.

*The Service Auction Team thanks EVERYONE!*

**Caroline Sullivan, Jennifer Parks-Strack, Mary Robey, Katie Williams,**

**Judy Lowe, Matt Cechini, and Bea Sousa**



## Great Cycle Challenge

I will be riding this June in the 2019 Great Cycle Challenge to fight kids' cancer! My goal is to pedal 400 miles throughout the month. Cancer is the largest killer of children from disease in the United States – 38 children die of cancer every week. Kids should be living life, NOT fighting for it!

My challenge will be tough, but it's nothing compared to what these brave kids and their families face every day of their lives as they battle this terrible disease. I am taking on this challenge to help end childhood cancer and save little lives.

Please support me by making a donation through my fundraising page:

<https://greatcyclechallenge.com/Riders/JessieCreselious/d>

All funds raised will support Children's Cancer Research Fund to continue their work to develop innovative treatments and find a cure for childhood cancer.

Thank you for your support!

**Jessie Creselious** [creselious@me.com](mailto:creselious@me.com)

## Farewell

**Minister Joel Tishken** (continued from page 1)

saying thanks is appropriate as those things came because of you. I can say with certainty that these things would not have come about without you. From warm welcomes in February, to sad goodbyes in May, to all the services, shared experiences, conversations, meetings, rituals, and pastoral care encounters in between—all the people and staff of UUCM have been wonderfully supportive of me across my four months. It is very difficult to choose a favorite memory from my past four months because there are so many precious ones. But if I had to choose, I would say it was our hug party following Sunday service on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The atmosphere of all of UUCM seemed to change a bit after that Sunday. It seemed to me, and was confirmed by others, an important contribution to congregational health and renewal. I strived to be mindful of congregational renewal and restoration throughout my time. It is my sincere hope that the things I did made positive contributions to the congregation's well-being.

As often happens during sabbatical leaves, some of the church's tensions increased in intensity in recent months. I have full confidence and faith that all people at UUCM want the same thing—a safe, healthy, and

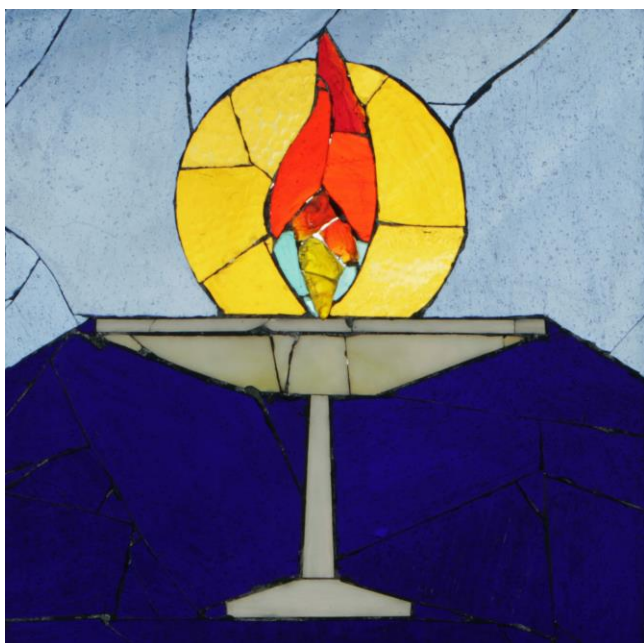
supportive space to be Unitarian Universalists. Unitarian Universalism, since day one, has had a lofty yet challenging vision—to bring together all people, from all parts of the theological and spiritual spectrum, and re-imagine how we can live in better and stronger community as our true selves. I encourage everyone to be mindful of our principles and the reasons we choose to enter into community together. When we strive to be our best selves and serve the best interests of the community, only good things can come. I envision good things for the future of UUCM and all of its wonderful people.

What do I envision for my future? At this moment, I do not know. That's a bit scary. It is also freeing in that there are no limits. Lee Ann and I, along with our animal friends Vulcan, Vesta, Calliope, Clio, Flora, Faunus, and Juno, will just have to see what our futures bring. I wish everyone at UUCM the very best. As my "people" would say, ačiū (thank you).

Su meile (with love),

**Joel**

**Minister Joel**



"Unitarianism" Harshman Panel  
Photo by Gunther Cartwright

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## Theme Reflection – Beauty

(continued from page 3)

So this month you are invited to get clear about the beautiful thing you need to carry. Or are carrying. Whether that be in your heart, head or literal pocket. Take some time to think about the source of beauty that sustains you. And then pick one action that will help you carry it with you in a more consistent way.

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



## Moving Forward with Intention

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

I do not think we have completed the necessary personal and congregational work around the issues that have arisen in our communal life in the past few years. We have made a start, but we are not yet finished. We have begun to *acknowledge* the tensions that exist. But those tensions are *not resolved*. It's true they never will be completely; we are a diverse people with strong opinions, and we cherish our diversity.

That having been said, we can work to become both willing and able to embrace our diversity and live in harmony with each other. That is a challenging task, but one that I am sure we can do. To whatever extent we can, we need to show each other grace, forgiveness, and forbearance. We do not have to agree, and we will not. But we *can* commit to being open-hearted even in our disagreement.

It's for this reason that I want to call us to some of our foundational principles. Not all of us will have the same list of key principles for our current situation; these are mine.

Even as we differ and challenge each other, and yes, argue and sometimes hurt each other, we must hold unwaveringly to our affirmation that each and every one of us is a person of inherent worth and dignity. No exceptions, no exclusions. No "yes, buts." The congregation, the Board, committees, Rev. Seth, his supporters and detractors, the rest of the staff. And we must strive to embody this affirmation in unequivocally every interaction. And we have to do the hard work of calling each other out when we fail on this, but doing so in the spirit of building up rather than of tearing down.

Corollary to this, our commitment to the democratic process needs to inform all we do. That means no group or individual rides roughshod over any other. It means that all voices are heard and valued, and that all feel it is safe to speak their minds.

In addition to our Principles, we draw on many sources—religious, spiritual, humanistic, scientific. They do not speak with one voice on all issues, to be sure. What I hear echoing through all of them, however, is the call to treat one another with compassion, kindness, and simple decency. In other words, treat others the way we would like to be treated, and don't do to other people what we wouldn't want done to us. Deceptively simple to state, but very powerful when put into action consistently.

I don't know the best way to move forward at this point. I do know there is no magic wand to wave that will make it all better. I know it will take work, and a willingness to listen to each other and to compromise. It will stretch us to be better than we have been. And I believe we have what it will take to emerge on the far side of this a stronger and more functional community of faith.

Can all of us hold in the forefront of our minds and hearts that we all want the same thing? We want to be the best church we can be, so that we can continue to be an outspoken and coherent voice for open-minded, inclusive religion in our city and the region, just as we have been doing since 1859. I believe we want to be a church that is an agent for positive, progressive social action. I firmly believe as well that we want to become a community in which all persons feel welcome, valued, and safe, a community of affirmation and compassion. We will differ on exactly what all this looks like and how best to go about it. But I truly believe that we are unified in our commitment to these goals.

With hope and confidence,

**Rev. Julia**

## Sharing Gratitude

Thank you to **Jerry McKean**, **Wayne Meyer**, and **Michael Sullivan** for your contributions to the Earth Day service on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Many people contributed to making our May 19<sup>th</sup> service a success. Thank you to: **Sophie Taylor**, **Charlie Dubree**, **Iris Chalk**, and **Sarah Bartlett** for providing us with the folk dance Noriu Miego; to **Margaret Reeder** for a beautiful postlude; to **Kirk Robey** for some delicious post-service cookies; and to **Bea Sousa** for a wonderful job, as always, as worship associate.

The service auction was such a success for many reasons:

1. Sabbatical minister **Joel**, being aware of the budget crisis, led the way with good ideas, help, enthusiasm and a most wonderful dinner that raised \$905;
2. The phenomenal auction team was just that—**Bea Sousa** wrote all the publicity, **Judy Lowe** planned all the food and organized the **Fellowship committee** for help, **Katie Williams** handled the UU Go Fund Me donations, **Mary Johnson Robey** did much of the computer work, and (trumpet fanfares here) **Jennifer Parks-Strack** agreed to be co-chair giving us more computer wisdom and work, sharing her knowledge of what works in auctions, answering silly questions, and sharing with us the youthful outlook and energy we needed;
3. Also important were **Christie Williams** who did the copying for us and **Mike Sullivan** who was always there; and most importantly.....
4. **YOU ALL!** You donated, you bid, you won or lost while having fun, and on May 5<sup>th</sup> you gave the church the excitement of a thriving street festival.

Thank you so much. ~Caroline Sullivan

*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."*



### Financial News

You can help our Office Administrator apply your pledge payments and other gifts to the proper account by including a note with your check or by a notation on the memo line (i.e. 2018-19 Pledge, 2019-20 Pledge, Dedicated Offering, Food Pantry, etc.). Payments received with no account indication will be applied to the current pledge year/general fund for 2018-19. **Our current pledge year ends June 30.**

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

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



## June 2019 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 |
| Revival Hour (see online calendar for location) | Wednesdays | 5:30 pm        |



### June Events & Activities

|                                             |           |         |          |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|----------|
| Fellowship Picnic at Summit Lake State Park | Saturday  | June 1  | Noon     |
| OWL Overnight                               | Saturday  | June 1  | 1:00 pm  |
| Worship Associates                          | Wednesday | June 5  | 7:00 pm  |
| Youth Group Lock In                         | Thursday  | June 6  | Noon     |
| Boston Bound Bake Sale                      | Sunday    | June 9  | 12:15 pm |
| Roots & Wings :: New Member Class           | Sunday    | June 9  | 12:15 pm |
| Social Justice Committee                    | Monday    | June 10 | 7:30 pm  |
| Pastoral Associates                         | Tuesday   | June 11 | 5:15 pm  |
| Board of Trustees                           | Wednesday | June 12 | 6:30 pm  |
| Committee on Ministries                     | Thursday  | June 13 | 7:00 pm  |
| New Member Signing Ceremony                 | Sunday    | June 16 | 10:15 am |
| Adult Discussion Committee                  | Sunday    | June 16 | 12:15 pm |
| Unigram Submission Deadline                 | Wednesday | June 19 | 9:00 am  |
| Program Council                             | Wednesday | June 19 | 7:00 pm  |
| Membership Committee                        | Thursday  | June 27 | 5:30 pm  |
| Sack Lunches for Soup Kitchen of Muncie     | Sunday    | June 30 | 9:30 am  |

### Adult Discussion Group Sundays, 9:30 am Red room

*June 2 – Annemarie Voss* will lead a discussion on “Reeducating” Xinjiang’s Muslims. She visited that northwest corner of China in 1996 and will bring her perspective.

*June 9 – Jonathan Jones*, current leader of MOMs will give a short presentation of the current state of programming and needs at this agency, and answer questions.

*June 16 – TBA*

*June 23 – TBA*

*June 30 – Annemarie Voss* will lead a discussion of Jacqueline Bhabah’s *Can We Solve the Migration Crisis?* Harvard, Polity Press

*Check out the weekly eBlast for June 16 & 23 discussion topics.*

### Summer Office Hours

Monday 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Tuesday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

*Please note that the office will be closed on Fridays beginning June 7.*

## 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)

### Board of Trustees

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**Caroline Sullivan**

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**Brandon Mundell**

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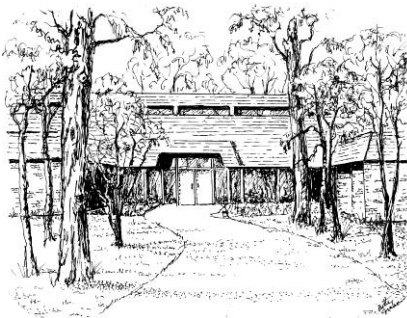
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Summer Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 4:00 pm | Tuesday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm | Wednesday – Thursday 9:00 am – 4:00

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie

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