



the UNIGRAM

Finding Belonging Amidst Diversity

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister

The best definition I've seen for our October theme of Belonging comes from the research of one of my favorite authors, vulnerability expert Brené Brown. In her book [Daring Greatly](#), she shares about asking a large group of eighth graders to describe the difference between "fitting in" and "belonging," and they came up with the following:

"Belonging is being somewhere where you want to be, and they want you. Fitting in is being somewhere where you really want to be, but they don't care one way or the other. Belonging is being accepted for you. Fitting in is being accepted for being like everyone else. I get to be me if I belong. I have to be like you to fit in."

I like to think that our church, and Unitarian Universalist churches in general, do a pretty good job of being places where people can belong. As it states on the cover of our order of service, "we welcome all people, without regard to age, race, national origin, ableness, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, or gender identity." And even though we're far from perfect, we do a better job than many other places of trying to live those values into being. The broad freedom of belief we offer in what I call the "existential" or "big picture" parts of our theology are especially

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Fitting in Isn't Belonging

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

As we usually do in staff meeting, in preparation for whatever theme is coming up for the next month, we reflected last month on our upcoming October theme of Belonging. Part of that reflection centered on the differences between belonging and fitting in. I'd never really thought about the distinction between them. If asked, my unreflective answer would probably have been that they are similar and related. Maybe not identical, but similar. Further, because I'd spent a lifetime fitting in (or trying to), I'd seriously confused and conflated the two. I might have said I "needed to fit in to belong."

As we talked and as I've thought about it since, they aren't the same, and the difference is significant. Put

simply—perhaps a bit too simply—they are nearly opposites in some ways. Remember how Expectation was our September theme? One way to understand fitting in is that it is about meeting expectations. It's about what we must *do* to fit in. It's frequently about changing how we would otherwise *be*.

Fitting in was a predominant theme in my family of origin. In part, that was simply the culture of the late 1940s and 50s. There were rules and standards, and one was expected to abide by them. [My use of the impersonal and stuffy "one" here is intentional. It conveys the emotional tenor of what was going on.] Many of these rules and standards were gender- and class-based. Women typically did not

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Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

Service at 10:45 am October Theme :: Belonging

Our theme for the month of October is Belonging. We'll the many different ways we belong in our communities, in our relationships, and in our lives. The choir will sing on Sunday, October 20th, and we will hold our annual Halloween parade at the beginning of the service on Sunday, October 27th.

October 6 – Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd

October 13 – Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd

October 20, 27 – Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd

Religious Education for Children & Youth

Classes at 10:45 am

October 6, 13, 20 - Curriculum Sunday

Join us as we continue our religious exploration!

October 27 - Halloween Parade & Curriculum Sunday

Come in costume and gather in your classrooms before the parade. The parade will be held at the beginning of the service, during the Prelude. After the Story for All Ages, classes will begin.

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.

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

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 12](#), and in the eBlast each Friday.

Other Monthly Events

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

2019-2020 UUCM Themes

September – Expectation

October – Belonging

November – Attention

December – Awe

January – Integrity

February – Resilience

March – Wisdom

April – Liberation

May – Thresholds

June – Play

Theme Exploration – Belonging

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 email them to Rev. Seth.

Sacred Text

Our sacred text this month is adapted from “Know You are Not Alone” by Rev. Gretchen Haley. She wrote:

For this one moment
 Know only that you are loved
 That you are safe, and whole and loved
 Know that you belong here
 Here among us, here upon this earth
 In your body
 However tired, or broken
 Your heart may be
 Whatever fear, disappointment, anger
 you carry
 Know you are not alone
 Feel the presence of others
 Surrounding you,
 Breathing beside you, and with you,
 Discovering together the way our voices rise, and fall
 together
 In harmony, in hope
 Claim here a resilient freedom
 The choice for love, for light, to live with joy
 and gratitude and praise

Questions for Reflection

Who is sitting just outside your circle and needs welcomed in?
 Have you ever had to sacrifice belonging for integrity? How about right now? Is your current source of belonging asking you to compromise your integrity?
 Is it time to shift the question from “Who am I?” to “Whose am I?” How would your living and loving be different (and better) if it was a bit less about becoming and a bit more about belonging? What if “Am I succeeding?” was replaced with “Who needs me?” “Who loves me? With whose life is my own bound up?”
 Who taught you that it is safe to show your whole self? That every part of you belongs?
 Did you find your place of belonging or create it?

Resources for Going Deeper

Article: “Finding Our Way to True Belonging”
 by Brené Brown <http://bit.ly/2muapJ2>

Video: “What Does Home Mean to You?”
 all ages answer by SoulPancake <http://bit.ly/2ldK564>

Spiritual Practice

We all know that belonging is not just about place, but people as well. Quaker teacher, Douglas Steer gets at this beautifully:

“The ancient question, ‘Who am I?’ inevitably leads to a deeper one: ‘Whose am I?’ – because there is no identity outside of relationship. You cannot be a person by yourself. To ask “Whose am I” is to extend the question far beyond the little self-absorbed self, and wonder: Who needs you? Who loves you? To whom are you accountable? To whom do you answer? Whose life is altered by your choices? With whose life is your own bound up, inextricably, in obvious or invisible ways?”

It’s such a powerful and important truth: we are who we belong to. But it’s also a hard truth to remember. The world around us doesn’t help. Its focus is on becoming not belonging. It wants us to wake up every morning and ask, “Am I succeeding?” not “Who needs me?” “Who loves me?” or “With whose life is my own bound up?”

So this month why not engage in a bit of course correction? Why not see what happens when who we belong to is front and center at the start of every day?

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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*

### The Gift of Teaching

#### Teachers needed in Religious Education

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to teach this year in our Religious Education classrooms! As teachers of religious education, we want to give our children experiences that awaken curiosity and nurture questioning as they continue their individual journeys of spiritual exploration.

We still have a few openings for teachers in our preschool class and one opening in our K-2nd grade class. Please consider teaching one Sunday a month. If you are interested, please contact me at [nadine@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:nadine@uuchurchmuncie.org) or talk to me on Sunday.

#### Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education (OWL)

- OWL 4-6 grade facilitators, **Nicole Kaplan** and **Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd**, will be offering a *Parent Orientation on Tuesday, October 1, from 7-8pm.*
- OWL 7-9 grade facilitators, **Denise & Ben Ewing**, will be offering a *2nd Parent Orientation on Saturday, October 5, from 3:30-6pm* for those parents who were unable to attend on September 29.
- Parent Orientations are mandatory to enroll your child/youth into the programs. Please let me know if you plan to attend.

#### Halloween Parade, October 27

On Sunday, October 27, 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.

## Youth Programs

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

### Mark Your Calendars!!

**Friday, October 18 - Sunday, October 20**  
**Heartland Area High School Youth CON**  
**hosted by UUCM**

Our church will host the fall regional conference, open to high school aged youth from all over the Heartland area (Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and some of Kentucky). Youth will converge on our church for a youth-led weekend full of worship, workshops, games and connection. It will be epic. If you are an adult who would like to help make this incredibly special community happen for UU youth, please be in touch with Elizabeth at [elizabeth@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:elizabeth@uuchurchmuncie.org).

#### Youth Group

Sunday, November 3 & 10, 12:30 - 2 pm

#### Youth Sunday Rehearsal

Saturday, November 16, 2 - 4:00 pm

#### Youth Sunday Service

Sunday, November 17, 10:45 am

**Elizabeth**

#### Boston Bound Booth at the UUCM Bazaar Saturday, November 2

We will be holding a Boston Bound Booth at the UUCM Bazaar, and we will need youth to help cover the booth from 8-2. We will be selling Unitarian Universalist Cards and UU bracelets. We have three time slots to cover: 8-10:00 am, 10:00 am-noon, noon-2:00 pm. Please contact me if you would like to help with the booth. All funds raised go toward the next Boston Bound Heritage Trip in 2022!

**Nadine**

## Splinters from the Board

*Exploring faith. Practicing inclusivity. Living justice.*



What follows are brief bios of the elected members of the board of trustees at UUCM. As you can see, the church is important in all of our lives and that it is an honor to serve in our individual capacities. Amongst us all, we total over 125 years of membership and experience in our congregation. We are working hard during this challenging time. You may not see all we are doing but we are meeting a lot, reading materials pertinent to our unique situation, and talking with our representatives from the MidAmerica Region. We are looking at the future for this congregation and hopefully making decisions that will help us all reconcile our differences.

### **Caroline Sullivan, board president**

Mike and I joined the church over 40 years ago. Since that time, I have served on the staff as pianist and DRE. I have served on many committees including membership, stewardship, and fellowship and have chaired the bazaar at least two times. I have enjoyed serving as a worship associate, or service elf as I call myself, but I will be taking a break this year. It is interesting that none of those activities included governance so I am continuing to learn in my role as president of the congregation. Many of you know Mike and I were instrumental in UUCM becoming a Welcoming Congregation—right time, right place, a fantastic committee, and a congregation that was ready. What you may not know is that when I was DRE in the 90's my brother, a metal sculptor, made the chalice that now resides in the teen room in exchange for a house cleaning by his sister. I think of our church and its people as I do that chalice—strong and beautiful.

### **Emily Wornell, president-elect**

When I moved to Muncie in September 2016, I didn't know a soul. I had just left my husband, Michael, and the cats (again) on the west coast and ventured eastward to start a new job at Ball State. I had already looked up UUCM before I moved and knew I wanted to attend, which I did the very first Sunday I was in town. I met Kim McKenzie that day, who was an absolutely goddess-send to me, and we became members together about a month later. Since then I have served on the Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors taskforce, been part of the women's group, co-lead a small group, and been elected your board president starting next year. Michael and the cats moved out this way summer 2018, and since then we've bought a house and added two dogs to our family. When I'm not busy with them or work, I also serve as the Treasurer for Muncie OUTreach and a speaker for the Indiana Humanities' Council INseparable program. I love Muncie; it's been a great place for me to land after years of constant moving and feeling rootless. The people here are welcoming and warm and made Muncie feel like home immediately. You all, as my UU family, are a huge part of that, and I'm honored to serve you in this leadership capacity.

### **John Bartlett, vice president**

I am John Bartlett, Vice President of the Board. I am in my 3rd + year on the Board (I took office 2 months early due to a vacancy). My family started attending UUCM in November of 2013 and became members in February of 2014. Since that time, I have served on the Communication Committee, the Committee on Ministries, various Bazaar committees, Hospitality, Sights and Sounds, taught RE classes, and Webmaster. I have taken two trips with some of our youth to Appalachia to repair homes of families living in extreme poverty. I am somewhat of an anomaly in our church as I was born at Ball Hospital and spent most of my life in East Central Indiana. I double majored in history and political science from IU-Bloomington where Maggie and I met. On September 11, I celebrated my 25th workaversary. These days, we have been working a lot of overtime, so my days normally start at 2:15 AM. I am also the

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## 122<sup>nd</sup> Bazaar in the Woods

Saturday, November 2 ✦ 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Co-Chairs: **Lisa Cox** ([inweebie@yahoo.com](mailto:inweebie@yahoo.com), 765-717-5848)

**Mary Johnson Robey** ([mrbobthecat@hotmail.com](mailto:mrbobthecat@hotmail.com), 765-730-7162)

It takes the WHOLE CHURCH to make our annual Bazaar successful. We need your time, talent, and treasures. Below is the Bazaar week schedule. Mark your calendar to contribute your time.

*We need all of you.*

### **October 17: Special Bazaar Issue of the Unigram**

Watch your mailbox or inbox for the Bazaar issue of the Unigram! It will include a schedule, list of booths, ways to help, and more.

### **October 27: Set-Up Sunday**

After the church service stay to transform the sanctuary into the best Bazaar space in Muncie. Help put away chairs, set up tables and arrange them according to our Layout Map. The more people that help, the less time it will take. **John Bartlett** will lead the set-up committee.

### **October 28 – November 1: Donation Drop-offs**

Drop off your donations from noon to 7:00 pm each day. Start now to gather your donations: jewelry, collectibles, priceless treasures for the Silent Auction, tools, rummage valuables, food (freeze now), books, plants, pots, garden items, gently used women's clothing, holiday decorations, children's toys & clothing.

### **Friday, November 1, 5 – 7 pm: Helper Thanks**

Bazaar preparations are almost complete. All workers are invited to a pre-Bazaar meal from 5pm – 7pm, in the Fellowship Hall. We appreciate the time you dedicate to make our bazaar successful!

### **November 2: Bazaar Day, 8 am – 2 pm**

Sign up to volunteer your time to help in one of the church booths or many of the other opportunities to help. Watch for the sign-up sheets to be posted late September or call Lisa or Mary to offer your help. If you are unable to volunteer at least make sure you attend and spread the word to your friends! They will thank you.

### **November 2: Post-Bazaar Clean-Up**

It will be a busy day! However, it is not finished until the sanctuary is cleared and chairs put back in place for Sunday service, and all of the class rooms are back in order. Basically the entire Church should look like it did last Sunday. Please stay to help clean up.

## Finding Belonging Amidst Diversity

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

helpful in allowing people to be who they are, and believe what they believe, and belong in our accepting religious community. There are also at least three things that happen in our community, and in other UU churches, that I see getting in the way of people feeling like they belong.

The first is that, as Fred Muir suggests in his book turning point: essays on a new Unitarian Universalism, we sometimes fall into the trap of Unitarian Universalist (UU) exceptionalism. UU exceptionalism means thinking Unitarian Universalism is the best, and that we have all the answers. Thinking that \*we\* are the smart and enlightened ones, and that if only everyone else figured out what we've figured out, the world would be a better place. We sometimes even combine exceptionalism with another challenge Muir lifts up, individualism (excessive individuality), and go so far as to think that our personal Unitarian Universalist answers are the best, and the only right ones, and that other UUs who don't agree with us are wrong. It's here that we can sometimes cause others to feel like they don't belong in our UU communities – when instead of welcoming their beliefs that are different than ours, we instead judge them or demean them. One antidote to this is to embrace a practice of *spiritual or ethical humility* – knowing and trusting that however strongly we believe in our current personal truths, that ours is just one perspective, and that there is always more to know and learn on our ever-evolving spiritual and ethical journey.

The second way I've seen that we sometimes end up feeling like we don't belong in UU circles is by believing, incorrectly from my perspective, that Unitarian Universalism offers total freedom of belief. As I noted above, we do offer complete freedom of belief in what I call the *existential* or big picture areas of theology – you can believe whatever you choose about the existence/non-existence/nature of god, the goddess, or the gods, and you can believe whatever you choose about

happens to you after you die, as but two prominent examples. I do think though that we have a very specific set of beliefs about how we are in relationship in the world, noting that the primary relationship we are in is with ourselves. We are then, of course, also in relationships with other people, the communities we're part of, our country, the environment, and the world. And in Unitarian Universalism, we believe very specific things about how to be in relationship – we believe that we need to bring love, kindness, compassion, justice, and equity into all our relationships, to name just a few. And while we argue sometimes about the nuances of what each of those qualities mean and look like in practice, these are expectations we have of one another, and that Unitarian Universalism has of us. And if we are challenged in one of those relational areas, it might cause us to feel like we don't belong. It is incumbent on us as individuals then, to recognize that being challenged and encouraged to grow by the values and beliefs of your religious tradition is actually one of the really important things religious traditions are supposed to do, and does not mean that we don't belong.

This ties back to Brené Brown's research – just because you are challenged on some of your relational beliefs and understandings, does not mean that you are not wanted, or that we are expecting you to change and fit in. Part of being a Unitarian Universalist is being on a free and responsible search for truth and meaning, which means changing and evolving over time. We should thus want our church experience to, on occasion, challenge us to grow and learn, and then know and trust that that challenge is not coming from a place of "conform to fit in," but rather "we love you exactly as you are, and hey, also, in this moment our beliefs and values are suggesting you might have some more room to grow in this one particular area."

The third thing that happens that sometimes gets in our way of feeling belonging in our UU communities ties back to last month's theme of Expectation – having the expectation that everything that happens

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## Finding Belonging Amidst Diversity

**Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd** (continued from page 7)

at church will line up completely with what you believe and prefer. As a theist, even if a particular service happens to be primarily atheist, that doesn't mean you don't belong – it just means someone else's needs are being met, in this diverse theological community that we embrace. As an atheist, if we use the word god in a service, it doesn't mean that you don't belong, it just means that again, someone else's needs are being met. In our American culture where so much of what we consume now comes perfectly tailored to our individual needs and wants, it can be uncomfortable to be in a place where things are happening that are not what we want or need. But going back to Brown's definition – things being not exactly what we want or need is not asking us to change ourselves, it's merely asking us to be ok with difference and the meeting of other peoples' wants and needs. Even when something is different, or uncomfortable, or not what you want or need, this community still values you just as you are, and isn't

asking you to change who you are. You still get to be you, no matter what. You still belong, no matter what. It's just that part of the challenge of embracing diversity like we do means that sometimes you won't be comfortable. And that's ok – comfort and belonging are two different things.

As we continue to explore Belonging together over this upcoming month, I hope we can also continue to explore what it means to belong to a church that offers and embraces diversity, and find ways to be ever more gentle and welcoming with others and ourselves, as we also manage our own expectations. I also hope we can deepen our own sense of belonging to this community, and deepen the bonds of connection that already exist. It's hard and important work.

See you in church!

peace, love and blessings,

**Rev. Seth**





## Fitting in Isn't Belonging

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

wear slacks in public even if they did at home (my mother). Nor did women smoke in public, even if they were smokers (also my mother). Smoking in public was OK for men.

Other norms and mores concerned how children were supposed to behave (“children should be seen and not heard”). Because I was a little girl, it was expected that I wear dresses to school, which also meant that there were a lot of things I couldn't do on the playground at recess. Others were likely the result of living in a small town. Yet others were more particularly rooted in the culture of my family—display only happy feelings, for example—no sadness, certainly no anger, and crying was met with correction. Be polite. Further, one must be a good Republican!

These spoken and unspoken requirements for fitting in can so easily become the kinds of expectations that limit us, those things that, as Rev. Seth spoke about one Sunday in September, keep us from “doing the impossible.” It also can lead directly to discrimination against those who do not “measure up.”

Belonging is a different matter. We belong simply because we *are*, just as we are. If we're sad, we belong. If we're “too loud,” we still belong. If we are differently-abled, we belong. If we look “different,” we belong. If we agree with the majority on something, we belong, but we also belong if we disagree, even if we disagree vehemently. Belonging isn't about fitting in with whatever culture is dominant. It's about a culture that is radically open to diversity, radically accepting of who we are. Full stop. Not “accepting in spite of.” There isn't any “in spite of” with belonging.

The seminary I attended was quite accepting of diversity...up to a point. We had one faculty member, a noted biblical scholar, who had studied for quite a long time in Germany and enjoyed wearing lederhosen, the short or knee-length leather breeches that are worn as traditional garments in

German-speaking countries. This caused some raised eyebrows and sidelong glances at this very well-respected and well-liked scholar. There was an academic dress code of sorts, and Burt was over the line!

Some of this seems curious or quaint now. Some of it makes me flinch because of the emotional violence it carries with it. But now I want to raise two questions, because the difference between fitting in and belonging is still very much with us. As a denomination and as a congregation, we say “We accept people as they are.” and “You have a home here.”

*Question one:* to what extent are these statements true? We're probably all seen people wearing MAGA (“make America great again”) t-shirts or baseball caps. If someone walked through our doors on a Sunday morning in a MAGA shirt, would they be accepted? I'm not sure. We UUs do have a culture of fitting in, right alongside a culture of belonging.

*Question two:* Can these statements be 100% true? *No*, because we can't allow someone to tear apart the fabric of community in the name of accepting everyone. We cannot allow abusive behavior to go unchecked. Belonging doesn't mean “anything goes” but it does mean that everyone is a person of worth and dignity, even if we have to set boundaries with their behavior or if we ultimately need to ask them to leave the community.

A culture of radical belonging is, or so it seems to me, always an aspirational value because of the complexities of the world in which we live. It's always a matter of finding a balance. It's always about “how wide can we make our umbrella?” May we continue to aspire! And may we have forbearance with those who we perceive to lag behind us on the aspiring/realizing continuum.

**Rev. Julia**

## Splinters from the Board (continued from page 5)

Democratic Party Chair in Blackford County. I have enjoyed my time serving the congregation in all the capacities I have and look forward to doing what I can to help in the future.

### **Brandon Mundell, secretary**

My name is Brandon Mundell. I have been attending the Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie for nearly 30 years, beginning when I was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and I officially joined the congregation on my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. I have been a Youth Group Leader, chaperoned the Boston Bound Heritage Trip, have been a member of and the chairperson of the Finance Committee, continue to serve as a Worship Associate and am currently the secretary of the Board of Trustees. I am a lifelong resident of Muncie, having been delivered at Ball Memorial Hospital in 1979, was a K-12 student at Burriss Laboratory School and have an undergraduate degree in Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management from Ball State University. I have a very supportive life partner, Lisa who I met through the church and who graciously puts up with my craziness and adventures. Many of you know that I am the owner of Toys Forever Models & Hobbies in downtown Muncie. What you may not know, is that I have been working in the toy, model & hobby industry since I was 16 years old, when I started a part time job working for Mrs. & Mr. Gupta, who also happen to be members of our congregation, at their hobby shop, formerly located on West Jackson Street.

### **Jennifer Hollems, treasurer**

When I moved with my husband and our infant son from Chicago to Muncie, I knew that we wanted to meet other like-minded people, so we headed to the UU church. We made lifelong friends, and I enjoyed my time serving as a Pastoral Associate and on various committees. As our schedules got busier, we moved further away from the church. We came back when our now teenaged kids joined OWL and then youth group and RE, and I joined the Women's Group and became the Treasurer. I was again struck by how much I love the people of our church. I enjoy

digging into the financials and sharing what I have learned with the congregation and getting to know people better through my work. I appreciate that the congregation has let me serve in this way. Some of you may not know that I am a co-owner of MEKS Gymnastics in Anderson and a gymnastics judge, and I homeschool my kids. In my spare time, I enjoy planning educational trips for our family, and I am an expert at saving money and avoiding crowds while traveling.

### **Mary Robey, past president**

My name is Mary Johnson Robey. I became a member of this congregation by signing the book in 1986. Hal Roepke pulled the book out of the case, Kirk and I signed, and that was it. I've been on many committees and the board several times. My favorite committee was my first... Social Activities chaired by Clyde Nicholson and Howard East, two of my favorite people. My favorite memory is singing and dancing the UU Blues with Marilyn Vincent, another of my favorite people, and the rest of the UU choir (more of my favorite people!) Direct involvement has been my key to building community here. I've built fond memories over the years, and I'm looking forward to building more with you.

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You can see we are quite a diverse bunch of people, yet woven into all our bios is the common thread of love for our church. We have been advised by folks at the MidAmerica Region that the first thing UUCM should do at this time is to rebuild trust and remember why we love and belong to this church. You may think nothing is happening but come along with us to a soup lunch, participate in a social project, join a church workday or the bazaar crew. Trust your board and then do what is most difficult, have patience. Yes, this will take time but it will be time well spent. Join us on the journey that is going to make our church and congregation stronger.

Yours in leadership and love,

Caroline Sullivan

Create a Little Magic

When was the first time you felt like you truly belonged somewhere? Really belonged. When were you first embraced for your whole self by a community? When were you urged to be honest and vulnerable and real so that you could be truly loved for exactly who you are?

Most of us do not find these places early enough in our lives. Places where we are truly wrapped up in communal love. Where we feel so held that growth becomes so much easier and more natural. Where we are more able than ever before to see the gifts within our own challenges.

Within Unitarian Universalism, places like this are very intentionally created for our youth. It is a central part of our programming here and across the country. There is no time in our lives when we need true belonging and acceptance more than our adolescence. Our faith tradition takes this seriously and supports youth in creating such spaces for themselves. They are called CONs.

When I was a youth, I experienced CONs to be life changing. More than one of my friends from CONs have shared that they were life-saving. I do not know who I might be today if not for these magical places that gave me hope for the world, faith in myself, profound spiritual experiences and life-long friends.

October 18-20, our congregation will have the opportunity to create one of these magical places for Unitarian Universalist youth from all over Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky. All of the programming will be youth created and youth led. Adults will travel with the youth to support the space throughout the day.

We need adults who are willing to help create this space by serving as Night Owls. Night Owls serve a four-hour shift (11 pm - 3 am or 3 am - 7 am) awake in the church so that the youth and their adults can rest safely. We need two adults who are not related to each other to serve each shift. This is in accordance with national and regional safety policies.

Please consider helping to create this life giving and faith sustaining event for our youth and the youth that will visit us by serving in this way. It is a hard job, but it makes a significant impact on a large group of people who deserve to know their own worth and beauty. Please sign up here: <http://bit.ly/2IEJPwX>

Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd elizabeth@uuchurchmuncie.org

The Social Justice Committee Needs YOU

Have you been seeking a way to increase your involvement in social justice issues but haven't known where to start? Curious about what the UUCM's Social Justice Committee does? We are a small group looking for additional members, and we invite you to join us in advancing social justice within the Muncie community and beyond. See **Luellen Smucker**, **John Barber**, **Bruce Rothschild**, or **Katie Williams** for more details—or just show up! (Our next meeting is on October 14, at 7:30 pm, in the Indigo Room.)

Sharing Gratitude

Thank you to **Christie Williams** for graciously inviting the rest of the staff to her home for our staff retreat in September. Thanks also to **Rev. Seth** for doing his usual great job of facilitating our retreat! **Rev. Julia**

The soup lunch/ice cream social on September was such a success. Thanks to our soup makers **Carolyn Cooley, Eleanor Johnson, Judy Lowe, Linda McKean, and Eleanor Trawick. Holly Hanauer, Eleanor Johnson** and **Kirk Robey** baked the bread to accompany the soup. The totally awesome fellowship committee who served and cleaned up was comprised of **Jean Filson, Beth Gonser, Susan MacGrath, and Kirk Robey**. Other helpers were **Judy & Bruce Craig, the Fritz family, Holly Hanauer, and Mike Sullivan**. There would have been no ice cream without **Brandon Mundell** assisted by **John Bartlett** and **Lisa Cox**. There are many more people who made this such a fun event, hopefully you know who you are. Thanks to all of you who participated. **Caroline Sullivan**



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

Live a life full of humility, gratitude, intellectual curiosity, and never stop learning. ~Gza

Adult Discussion Group

Every Sunday :: 9:30 am, Red room

October 6 – The Gadfly Papers: Part One

Rev. Todd Eklof, the UU minister at the Spokane UU Church distributed his book, [The Gadfly Papers: Three Essays by One Pesky Minister](#), at the recent UU General Assembly in Spokane. The book and minister created quite a stir, in part because he is quite critical of the current UUA leadership. His book is severely criticized by UU people of color, UU LGBTQ people, and many UU clergy as racist and homophobic, while celebrated by some as an inconvenient truth. Due to the harm the book has caused to UU people of color and UU LGBTQ people, UUA leadership, many UU ministers and many UU lay leaders have discouraged the purchase of his book. Handouts provided on the 29th of September will provide examples of responses to the book from various perspectives.

Editor's note: This description was edited.

October 13 – The Gadfly Papers: Part Two

Drawing on last week's discussion on The Gadfly Papers, this week's discussion will focus on the various points of view expressed by readers, UUA and interested groups (LGBTQ, UUBL, UUMA, DRUUMM) and direct them to issues and concerns at UUCM. Do we participate in identitarian practices? Are we separated or united by particular identities? Do we aspire to find our commonalities or seek to affirm our individual differences? Join us as we seek common ground.

October 20 & 27: TBA

October 2019 UUCM Calendar

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

Regular Weekly Events

Adult Discussion Group	Sundays	9:30 am
Worship Service	Sundays	10:45 am
Religious Exploration for Children & Youth	Sundays	10:45 am
Body Life Dinner	Tuesdays	6:00 pm
Choir Rehearsal	Tuesdays	7:30 – 9:00 pm
Revival Hour (see online calendar for location)	Wednesdays	5:30 pm

October Events & Activities

OWL 4-6 Orientation	Tuesday	Oct 1	7:00 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	Oct 2	7:00 pm
OWL 7-9 Orientation	Saturday	Oct 5	3:00 pm
Pastoral Associates	Tuesday	Oct 8	4:15 pm
Board of Trustees	Wednesday	Oct 9	6:30 pm
Fall Retreat at Pokagon State Park	Fri-Sun	Oct 11-13	
Roots & Wings :: New Member Class	Sunday	Oct 13	12:15 pm
Stewardship Committee	Sunday	Oct 14	6:30 pm
Social Justice Committee	Monday	Oct 14	7:30 pm
OWL 4-6	Tuesday	Oct 15	7:00 pm
Program Council	Wednesday	Oct 16	7:00 pm
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	Oct 17	7:00 pm
New Member Signing Ceremony	Sunday	Oct 20	10:15 am
Congregational Meeting	Sunday	Oct 20	12:30 pm
Adult Discussion Committee	Sunday	Oct 20	12:15 pm
OWL 7-9	Sunday	Oct 20	2:15 pm
OWL 4-6	Tuesday	Oct 22	7:00 pm
Unigram Submission Deadline	Wednesday	Oct 23	9:00 am
Congregational Workday	Saturday	Oct 26	9:00 am
Kitchen Cleaning	Saturday	Oct 26	10:00 am
Sack Lunches for Soup Kitchen of Muncie	Sunday	Oct 27	9:30 am
Bazaar Set Up Begins	Sunday	Oct 27	12:15 pm

UUCM Congregational Business Meeting Agenda

Sunday, October 20, 2019, 12:30 pm

Call to Order

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes from the May 19, 2019, Congregational Meeting
3. Presentation of the financial report on the 2018-19 fiscal year
4. 2019-20 Budget Update

Adjournment

Congregational Meeting Sunday, October 20 12:30 pm

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

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

Please note that a contribution of record for the 365 days preceding this meeting must be received by the church office by October 12 to fulfill the voting member requirement.

UUCM Staff & Leadership

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister
seth@uuchurchmuncie.org

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister
julia@uuchurchmuncie.org

Nadine Tringali, Director of Religious Education
nadine@uuchurchmuncie.org

Christie Williams, Office Administrator
christie@uuchurchmuncie.org

Dr. James Helton, Director of Music
jim@uuchurchmuncie.org

Rev. Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd, Coordinator of Youth Programs
elizabeth@uuchurchmuncie.org

Marcel Ramalho, Choir Director
marcel@uuchurchmuncie.org

Board of Trustees

Caroline Sullivan
President

Emily Wornell
President Elect

John Bartlett
Vice President

Brandon Mundell
Secretary

Jennifer Hollets
Treasurer

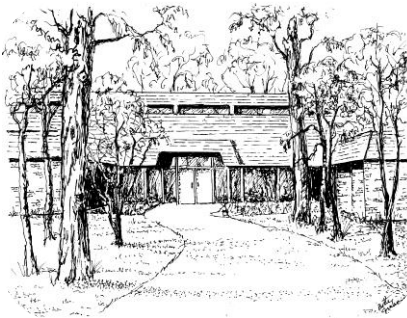
Mary Johnson Robey
Past President

765.288.9561 | uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org | www.uuchurchmuncie.org

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

Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie

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Muncie, IN 47304



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