



# the UNIGRAM

## Liminal Living

*Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister*

We are living in a time of liminality, a time of transition, a time of in-between, a threshold between what was and what will be. When I think of the thresholds and boundaries, my brain thinks small distances – like doorways. The distance between one room and the other, or between inside and outside is measured in inches, and even less in terms of perception. We can stand with one foot in one room, and one foot in the other. Living in a liminal space though, is often not such a small endeavor, and it often involves waiting and patience (or impatience). Such waiting is often made easier though by our knowledge and understanding of what comes next. It’s even more difficult for us now, when what life was is no longer, and what life will be is yet to be determined. And, we also have no idea when it will be determined – it could be months, or even more than a year, before the future begins to take shape.

Needless to say, this is stressful and anxiety-provoking for most of us. And traumatizing or re-traumatizing for some of us. As Rev. Julia shares about in depth in her article this month, one of our most important tasks during this time is to be gentle and accepting of ourselves and others. The National Health Service in the U.K. sent out some guidelines to its

(continued on page 8)

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## 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>Membership Sunday</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Sharing Gratitude</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Wheel of Life</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>May Calendar</u>	<u>11</u>

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## In Praise of Imperfection

*Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister*

There have been a lot of things making the rounds on Facebook and other social media about how productively some people are using their time during our time of physical distancing. Some of them have a prescriptive flavor; *we all should* be using our time productively.

The straightforward accounts of how people are using their time wisely and well don’t bother me at all. When they stray over that line and guilt trip those of us who are not or can’t quite find the motivation to do so, it bothers me. Between funk and struggling with all new ways of doing so many things—virtual church, grocery shopping via apps, needing to check if there are too

many people already on the walking paths I like to use—I don’t have a lot of leftover energy for self-improvement right now!

Alaa Hijazi is a trauma psychologist in Beirut, Lebanon. She wrote a recent Facebook post in which she articulates this in a way that I had not quite been able to do.

“I thought I was spared the horrid ‘motivational’ phrase going around now ‘If you don’t come out of this with a new skill, you never lacked time, you lacked discipline’ until I saw it on my local yoga studio page.

(continued on page 9)

## Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

**Service at 10:45 am      May Theme :: Thresholds**

Our theme for the month of May is Thresholds. We are in a threshold space, a liminal space, now, balanced between the way things were, and the way things will be once this pandemic recedes. We will explore this and other kinds of thresholds throughout our services this month. With Rev. Seth on parental leave, there will be guest speakers every Sunday. Our special ceremony this month will happen on Volunteer Appreciation Sunday on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

- May 3 – Rev. Bruce Russell-Jayne
- May 10 – Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer
- May 17 – Rev. Sarah Gettie McNeill
- May 24 – Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer
- May 31 – Rev. Scott McNeill

## Religious Education for Children & Youth

**Classes at 10:00 am & 1:00 pm** (see schedule below)

Please join us as we continue our religious exploration online via Zoom each Sunday morning! This month, RE Chapel will be held at 10am on the 1st and 4th Sundays. RE classes will be held on the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Sundays with PreK-2nd and 3rd-5th classes at 10am and MSHS class at 1pm. Zoom links will be posted in an email to all RE families and can also be found in the Friday eBlast.

- May 3 – RE Chapel at 10:00 am
- May 10 – PreK-2nd & 3d-5th RE classes at 10:00 am / MSHS class at 1:00 pm
- May 17 – PreK-2nd & 3d-5th RE classes at 10:00 am / MSHS class at 1:00 pm
- May 24 – RE Chapel at 10:00 am
- May 31 – PreK-2nd & 3d-5th RE classes at 10:00 am / MSHS class at 1:00 pm

## 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  
Via Zoom

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 and a Zoom link listed in the eBlast each Friday.

### Sunday Services

For the next three months, until the arrival of an interim minister, Worship Associates, with the expert assistance of Sights and Sounds, will manage our worship services. At its last meeting the UUCM Board decided that our building will remain closed at least until July 1, so our services will continue on Zoom at least until that time.

The first six weeks, May 3-June 7, will feature speakers Rev. Seth arranged to fill the pulpit during his family leave. June 14 begins the usual 7-week summer schedule, planned as well as managed by Worship Associates. Our theme this summer is the Six Sources from which our denomination draws inspiration. If you would like to review those sources, you can find more information at <https://www.uua.org/beliefs/what-we-believe/sources>. We are especially excited about this summer's series because, with the exception of one Sunday, all services will feature speakers from our own congregation. We hope you will plan to be with us. **Bea Sousa**, Worship Associate Co-Chair

## Theme Exploration – Thresholds

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 titled “Mindful of the Mystery of Thresholds” by L.A. McCrae:*

Source of All that is Living,  
 As we gather this morning, mindful of the mystery  
 of thresholds,  
 calm our uneasy and anxious spirits,  
 May we be open to the mystery and blessings of  
 what awaits on the other side of great transition.  
 Allow love and light to penetrate places of fear,  
 desperation, hopelessness, and despair.  
 Encourage our spirits and strengthen our  
 connections so that we may be a threshold people.  
 Give us the certainty to walk with those who are  
 standing at the thresholds  
 of indecision, uncertainty, and doubt.  
 Provide for us the courage to speak truth to power.  
 May we continue to love, unapologetically.  
 Let this love carry us from indecision and doubt to  
 peace and resolve.  
 Be with us now and always, holding us in the tender  
 moments of growth.

### Questions for Reflection

What was your favorite threshold time in your life?  
 How are you honoring the joy and gift of that time  
 in your life right now?

What new threshold is your awareness of white  
 supremacy calling you to travel through?

What if thresholds are meant to rest in, not rush  
 through?

Is it time to turn from wishing you could have a new  
 beginning to working on making a new ending?

Has the pain of continuing exceeded the pain of  
 stopping?

### Resources for Going Deeper

**Article:** “The Journey of Transformation” by Jim  
 Marsden <https://bit.ly/2SCK60T>

**Video:** The Parable of the Trapeze by Danaan Parry  
<https://bit.ly/2Wc9Did>

### Spiritual Practice: A Threshold Snapshot

One of the best ways to take ourselves back to the  
 threshold moments of our lives is to revisit the  
 pictures we took of them. So here are your  
 instructions: *Find a picture of yourself after having  
 gone through an important threshold or right in the  
 middle of it!*

Likely, you will stumble on a number of other  
 pictures of the same moment. Take your time going  
 through them all. Try to notice the subtle  
 differences, and what those subtle differences might  
 be trying to tell you.

Reflect on the following questions: What new thing  
 did you notice about yourself as you looked at the  
 picture again? Who was with you at the time? How  
 did they help you get through that threshold  
 moment or celebrate it? How are you still the same  
 person in the picture? How have you changed?

Here’s a version of the song that lists the lyrics in  
 case you it helps you focus on the words:

<https://bit.ly/2xJPZBq>

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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*

This month our theme is *Thresholds*. We have purchased a year-long *Soulful Home* subscription for our families to enjoy! The May packet has been created with a global context in mind, but the focus is still on joyful UU family ministry. All of the activities can be done indoors, since sheltering-at-home is a reality for many of us.

Please join us as we continue our religious exploration online via Zoom each Sunday morning!

- RE Chapel at 10am with Nadine on the 1st & 4th Sundays
- PreK-2nd grade class and 3rd-5th grade class at 10am on the 2nd, 3rd, & 5th Sundays. They will begin together and then break out into two separate classes following the chalice lighting.
- MSHS class at 1pm on 2nd, 3rd, & 5th Sundays.

Please join us for Story Time! Nadine will be online via Zoom from 11:30-noon on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Staying connected with our church friends during this time of sheltering-in-place, can be through zoom meetings and by phone, but how great would it be to also send letters or postcards! And not only to your classroom friends, but you may also want to reach out to members of the church and ask how they are, perhaps send a picture, or tell them about something new you did or saw outside. If you would like me to send you a packet of cards and some stamps, please let me know.

I hope you are all well!

**Nadine**

## Youth Programs

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

### Youth Group Online!

*New Youth Group Time!*

3:30 - 5 pm on Thursdays in Zoom Room #1

<https://zoom.us/j/4326211304>

As we continue to adjust to life at home, we are changing the time of the youth group for the foreseeable future. This time will work better for many folks and better accommodate maternity coverage for Elizabeth.

*End of Year Party!*

May 8, 7-9 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/4326211304>

Before this event, I will be bringing care packages to your homes, including a package of gummy bears so that we can have our end of year gummy bear ritual over zoom. Join us as we bid farewell to the year, our bridging seniors and Elizabeth. We will also look forward with hope and joy for the exciting future of our youth program.

**Elizabeth**



## Splinters from the Board

*Exploring faith. Practicing inclusivity. Living justice.*

Splinters from the Board is a column that informs the congregation of board activities and decisions. The activities involve work by individual members of the board in the form of Board Action Assignments that secretary, Brandon Mundell, sends immediately to board members after the meetings conclude. The list changes every month with each member taking a turn at “heavy lifting.” Treasurer Jennifer Hollems always has ongoing responsibilities, she would probably say it never stops. So in the spirit of transparency, here is the to-do list for April.

- Next board meeting: Opening words—Brandon, Closing words—Jennifer, Appreciation Activity TBD
- Jennifer will work with the Office Administrator regarding the application for the SBA Payroll Protection Program Loan
- Caroline and Emily will meet and spearhead the ideas for keeping congregation members connected
- Mary will contact Karen Moorman regarding ideas for Rev. Seth Farewell Activity(ies)
- John & Rev. Seth will coordinate regarding Zoom hosting privileges for congregation members
- Caroline will send a letter to Ben Strack thanking him for all of his contributions to virtual services
- Brandon will work on a good virtual voting system for the Congregational Meeting.
- Brandon will work on the letter of our stance on science and work with Emily to polish and distribute it
- Caroline will contact the Stewardship Committee regarding the suggestion to donate a portion of COVID-19 Federal Stimulus funds to the UU Church of Muncie

Each item reflects the effect the COVID-19 virus is having on UUCM. For instance, the board decided that the staff must be paid during this pandemic—churches are eligible for the SBA Payroll Protection plan so that avenue is being investigated. The board is worried about the church community as a whole—what are some ways community can be maintained and continued during this time of isolation? How will

UUCM do virtual farewell activities for Reverend Seth and family and have them meaningful? Voting in a congregational meeting is an issue many congregations are having to solve—how can those without computers vote or how do those attending the meeting vote virtually? The Board received a request from the Morning Discussion Group to write a letter to the UUA encouraging it to make a public statement supporting science and reason in battling COVID-19. The Board voted unanimously to compose a letter requesting UUA and perhaps local media to support COVID-19 guidelines based on scientific data. View the letter here: <https://bit.ly/3fcll3R>.

Postponement of the Service Auction and other fundraising means that the budget will suffer a serious shortfall for the 2019-2020 fiscal year—how can the congregation show generosity during this time?

Ongoing activities include an additional board meeting that was held to determine the budget that will be presented to the congregation at the congregational meeting. The Congregational Record has been submitted to the UUA Transitions office for prospective interim (transitional) ministers to peruse. Emily Wornell (president-elect) will be the liaison with the staff after Rev. Seth departs April 29<sup>th</sup>. Bea Sousa (co-chair of Worship Associates) will sit in on the meetings for a short time to coordinate worship responsibilities. New dates have been set:

- The church will be closed through **June 30<sup>th</sup>** and then the board will decide based on data from the governor and the Delaware County Board of Health if it is safe to reopen.
- On Sunday, **May 17<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00 the proposed budget will be discussed.
- The Congregational Meeting is postponed until Sunday, **June 14<sup>th</sup>** to ensure the voting will be fair and inclusive for all members.

By the time you see this, Rev. Seth will have preached his last sermon at UUCM. We all wish the Carrier-Ladd family well as they pursue new ministries and opportunities in Massachusetts.

Stay well. Stay healthy. Stay safe.

In love and leadership,

**Caroline Sullivan**

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## Membership Sunday

Traditionally at our church we hold a ceremony in April to recognize and honor those of us who have become members in the past year and also those of us who have been members for more than 25 years. With our current health challenges, recognizing all of you in person is not possible, but by sharing the lists on the next page we do acknowledge you all are a most significant part of our church.

Earlier this week I came across a short essay by Dana E. Worsnop that speaks to how important you all are to our beloved community:

*Often people say that they love coming to a place with so many like-minded people. I know just what they are getting at -- and I know that they aren't getting it quite right.*

*I don't want to be with a bunch of people who think just like me.*

*I want to be in a beloved community where I don't have to think like everyone else to be loved, to be eligible for salvation. I want to be with people who value compassion, justice, love and truth, though they have different thoughts and opinions about all sorts of things.*

*I want to be with independent-minded people of good heart. I want to be with people who have many names and no name at all for God.*

*I want to be with people who see in me goodness and dignity, who also see my failings and foibles, and who still love me. I want to be with people who feel their inter-connection with all existence and let it guide their footfalls upon the earth.*

*I want to be with people who see life as a paradox and don't always rush to resolve it. I want to be with people who are willing to walk the tight rope that is life and who will hold my hand as I walk mine.*

*I want to be with people who let church call them into a different way of being in the world. I want to be with people who support, encourage and even challenge each other to higher and more ethical living.*

*I want to be with people who inspire one another to follow the call of the spirit. I want to be with people who covenant to be honest, engaged and kind, who strive to keep their promises and hold me to the promises I make. I want to be with people who give of themselves, who share their hearts and minds and gifts.*

*I want to be with people who know that human community is often warm and generous, sometimes challenging and almost always a grand adventure.*

*In short, I want to be with people like you.*

All of you, whether you just joined our church this February or have been a member since 1950, are the people I want to be with in our church in the woods.

**Kirk Robey**

Chair, UUCM Membership Committee

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## UUCM Heritage Members and New Members

### 60 + Years

|          |            |           |
|----------|------------|-----------|
| Durman   | Betty      | 1950/4/16 |
| Mayfield | Wathena R. | 1956/3/29 |
| Ulrich   | Carolyn    | 1959/12/6 |

### 50 - 59 Years

|          |                 |            |
|----------|-----------------|------------|
| Gregory  | Linda Sue       | 1961/2/5   |
| Cooley   | Marnee          | 1963/6/9   |
| Gregory  | Connie R.       | 1965/4/18  |
| Roepke   | Judith          | 1965/10/2  |
| Joyner   | Marjorie        | 1965/12/5  |
| Peterson | John Raymond    | 1966/11/20 |
| Caldwell | Harold L.       | 1970/6/14  |
| Shaffer  | Peggy           | 1970/11/8  |
| Cunliffe | Albert E. (Ted) | 1970/12/29 |

### 40 - 49 Years

|           |              |            |
|-----------|--------------|------------|
| Schroeder | Howard E.    | 1972/11/17 |
| Schroeder | Judy         | 1972/11/17 |
| Morton    | Bill         | 1973/3/11  |
| Morton    | Linda Norris | 1973/5/9   |
| Bogg      | Richard      | 1973/5/11  |
| Williams  | Richard      | 1975/1/19  |
| Errington | Sue          | 1975/12/12 |
| Fritz     | Julia Hoar   | 1976/3/28  |
| Fritz     | Robert Karl  | 1976/3/28  |
| Love      | Colleen S.   | 1976/7/2   |
| Sullivan  | Caroline S.  | 1977/3/27  |
| Sullivan  | Michael E.   | 1977/3/27  |
| Burton    | Ronald C.    | 1979/10/14 |
| Redburn   | Jean         | 1980/10/29 |
| Burkle    | Martin       | 1980/11/2  |
| Garofolo  | Patricia     | 1980/11/2  |
| Sousa     | Bea L.       | 1980/11/2  |
| Stout     | Paul         | 1980/11/2  |
| Morris    | Vicky        | 1980/11/9  |
| Garofolo  | Gary         | 1980/12/29 |
| Sousa     | Lynn         | 1980/6/1   |
| Gardiner  | Carol        | 1980/9/7   |

### 25 - 39 Years

|           |                 |            |
|-----------|-----------------|------------|
| Austin    | Lynn Trowbridge | 1981/1/18  |
| Frankland | Diane           | 1981/11/15 |
| Frankland | E. Gene         | 1981/11/15 |
| Reichle   | Karyn J.        | 1981/2/15  |
| Meyer     | Jane R.         | 1981/4/2   |
| Meyer     | Wayne H.        | 1981/4/2   |
| Johnson   | Mary K.         | 1982/11/7  |
| LaWall    | Charlene R.     | 1982/12/12 |
| Behforouz | Nancy           | 1982/12/5  |
| Craig     | Bruce           | 1982/12/5  |
| Craig     | Judy            | 1982/12/5  |
| Gordy     | Brian M.        | 1982/2/27  |
| Gordy     | Genell T.       | 1982/2/27  |

|           |              |            |
|-----------|--------------|------------|
| Dudley    | Terry Lynn   | 1982/4/4   |
| Vincent   | James R.     | 1982/4/4   |
| Lowe      | Judith B.    | 1983/2/27  |
| Swartz    | China        | 1983/4/10  |
| Lowe      | Elizabeth    | 1985/01/12 |
| Hanson    | Linda        | 1986/11/09 |
| Robey     | Mary Johnson | 1986/12/07 |
| Robey     | N. Kirk      | 1986/12/07 |
| Hartwell  | Carol        | 1986/03/16 |
| Robb      | Catherine    | 1988/01/11 |
| Martin    | Douglas      | 1988/09/11 |
| Martin    | Shonet       | 1988/09/11 |
| Alvarez   | Barbara      | 1989/12/10 |
| Bohanon   | Cecil        | 1989/06/18 |
| Dwenger   | Lisa         | 1990/05/06 |
| Dwenger   | Ric          | 1990/05/06 |
| Peters    | Cindy        | 1991/06/02 |
| Seager    | Sharon       | 1991/06/02 |
| Turner    | Cindy        | 1991/06/02 |
| Turner    | Jeff         | 1991/06/02 |
| Gupta     | Shailla      | 1991/06/09 |
| Cooley    | Carolyn      | 1991/12/08 |
| Mundell   | Jan          | 1991/12/08 |
| Winders   | Bob          | 1991/12/08 |
| Winders   | Deb          | 1991/12/08 |
| Calvin    | David        | 1992/04/12 |
| Calvin    | Susan        | 1992/04/12 |
| Duckworth | Jane         | 1992/06/28 |
| Roepke    | Janet        | 1993/01/17 |
| Hanauer   | Holly        | 1993/12/12 |
| Hanauer   | Brad         | 1993/12/12 |
| Reichle   | Ann          | 1993/12/12 |
| Donn      | Patsy        | 1994/01/02 |
| LeBlanc   | Cheryl       | 1994/12/03 |
| LeBlanc   | David        | 1994/12/03 |
| Filson    | Jean         | 1994/05/08 |
| Reichle   | Kurt         | 1994/06/14 |
| Guillaud  | Robert       | 1995/05/28 |
| Hathaway  | Jeff         | 1995/05/07 |
| Guillaud  | Sue          | 1995/06/11 |

*Please note that this list includes all those still living in the Muncie area who signed the UUCM membership book, even if they are not currently active.*

### New Members

|           |            |           |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Hollems   | Carter     | 2019/5/19 |
| Miller    | Megan      | 2019/7/5  |
| Miller    | Matt       | 2019/7/5  |
| Kline     | Alexandria | 2019/8/15 |
| Rosser    | Julee      | 2020/1/19 |
| Duvall    | Leslie     | 2020/2/16 |
| Zacharias | Marilyn    | 2020/2/16 |

## Liminal Living

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

workers, which included the following two items: “4. You will be kind to yourself and not judge how you are coping based on how you see others coping. 5. You will be kind to others and not judge how they are coping based on how you are coping.” We all cope differently – the important thing is to make sure we are taking care of our physical and mental health, whatever that looks like for you.

For myself, I keep coming back to some of the same words of reminder – if you’ve been coming to our virtual Sunday services, you’ve heard me preach on them. One of those phrases is “do the next right thing.” In these uncertain times, where we don’t know what the future holds, often all we can do is “the next right thing,” as best we can discern it, given the information we have at hand. Sometimes that’s a big, challenging, complex thing, and sometimes it’s as simple as making a snack for your kids or going on a walk outdoors to get yourself out of the house. Another of the phrases I’ve been coming back to is “keep on moving forward.” There’s an element of letting go here – you can’t move forward if you’re weighed down, clinging tightly to what was, holding on to the past. For sure, mourn, grieve the losses, feel your feelings. And then, keep on moving forward, taking whatever that next right step is. Finally, I added just this week the words from one of my favorite hymns, “life calls us on.” To me, it’s a reminder that there’s still good out there. That we will come through this, collectively, even though things are grim right now. It’s not a pollyana-ish, naïve hope – it’s a hard-earned hope born out of struggle, my own, and many others before me, that we have persevered and persisted in the face of so many previously challenges.

And part of life calling me on and us collectively moving forward, another liminal space of transition that we are living in as a congregation right now, is saying goodbye. It’s been a weird experience for me so far, saying goodbye to you looking at your faces through my screen. Even as we do our best to say

goodbye in other ways, I mourn the loss of the in-person goodbyes, the hugs, the last conversations. And, say goodbye this way we must, for there is no other choice right now. We must keep on moving forward.

I want to share a couple of practical notes about how this works for ministers and congregations. We have learned through difficult trial and error over time that it doesn’t work well for ministers and members of the congregation to stay in touch after the minister leaves. This is true for a variety of reasons, including that in times of stress or hardship, it’s so much easier to reach out to the familiar minister you know, instead of your new minister you’re just getting to know. To ensure that you all are moving on from me and embracing both your interim and then your next settled minister, once August 1<sup>st</sup> rolls around and I am officially no longer employed by the church, we will need to not be in contact anymore. To help maintain that boundary, I will probably unfriend those of you with whom I’m Facebook friends – please don’t take it personally, because it isn’t. Some of you may find these strict boundaries upsetting, and I totally get that it can feel draconian. It’s going to make me really sad not to be in communication with you all, it’s one of the hardest parts of being a minister, and, it’s the right thing to do. This is one of the “best practices” that we Unitarian Universalists have found to help with the process of moving forward.

And keep on moving forward, I must, you must, we must. It has been an honor and a privilege to have served as your settled minister for these past seven years. From the beginning, I was drawn to this community because of how much you care about and for one another, and that remains a strength of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie to this day. We have walked together for quite a while now, and while our road together has not always been easy, we have also done some really good work together. I have nothing but high hopes and well wishes for you and your future as our paths begin to diverge.

peace, love and blessings,

**Rev. Seth**



## In Praise of Imperfection

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

As a trauma psychologist, I am utterly horrified, enraged, and bewildered about how people can believe and spread this phrase in good conscience.

We are going through a collective trauma, that is bringing up profound grief, loss, panic over livelihoods, panic over loss of lives of loved ones. People's nervous systems are barely coping with the sense of threat and vigilance for safety, or alternating with feeling numb and frozen and shutting down in response to it all.

People are trying to survive poverty, fear, retriggering of trauma, retriggering of other mental health difficulties. Yet, someone has the nerve to accuse someone of lack of discipline for not learning a new skill, and by a yoga teacher!

This cultural obsession with capitalistic 'productivity' and always spending time in a 'productive' 'fruitful' way is absolutely maddening.

What we need is more self-compassion, more gentle acceptance of all the difficult emotions coming up for us now, more focus on gentle ways to soothe ourselves and our pain and the pain of loved ones around us, not a whipping by some random [person] making us feel worse about ourselves in the name of 'motivation'."

It has resonated with many people—over 4,000 comments and 46,000 shares. And it resonates with me. The last thing we need is to put additional pressure on ourselves to make this time "productive." If we can, wonderful! It's great for me that what I do in and with our beloved community pushes me to be at least *somewhat* productive, or I'm not sure how much I'd get done. And I *have* upped my exercise game significantly. I did reorganize my pantry a little bit because we're trying to stay a bit ahead on food. Have I redecorated my house? Cleaned all my cabinets? Written the Great American Novel? No, and I likely won't.

What I *do* plan to do is to survive this singularly odd and challenging time with my mental health as intact

as possible, and do whatever I can to help others do the same. I plan to support our beloved community in whatever ways I can. And that is enough.

Thank you, Dr.Hijazi.

**Rev. Julia**



### UUCM Feedback Process

The Committee on Ministries spent the last 8 months creating a minister evaluation tool. Based largely upon the 360-degree feedback model, we asked 23 church stakeholders to participate in the evaluation this winter. The Committee also developed a Process Guide to aid regular ministerial evaluations in the future.

If you are interested in reviewing this guide, please follow this link: <https://bit.ly/2VOEzfY>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact

**Jamie Butterbaugh** at

[Jamie.butterbaugh@gmail.com](mailto:Jamie.butterbaugh@gmail.com)

Jamie Butterbaugh, Chair

Ben Strack, Secretary

Linda McKean

Michael Sullivan

Timothy Hollems

Bill Frederick

## Sharing Gratitude

Huge amounts of gratitude and appreciation to **Ben Strack**, who has stepped up during our transition to virtual Sunday services and offered a heroic amount of volunteer time and expertise, which has helped make our virtual services so successful. Thank you Ben! ~**Rev. Seth**

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."



### Wheel of Life

If you have a major life event you'd like the church community to be aware of, please submit it to [uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org) and note "Wheel of Life" in the subject line.

**Steve Robert**, long-time member of UUCM, passed peacefully from this world on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at his home, in the company of his wife and loving family, under the care of a hospice team. We are deeply saddened by this loss, and offer our love, care, and condolences, to his wife, **Tracey Whelan**, and surviving family members. Steve asked for the following to be shared after his obituary was published.

### Epilogue

The family of Steve Robert will not be having a memorial service other than a private one for ourselves to deal with the ashes. We'll expect our privacy at this time to be respected.

If you wish to do something to mark this passing you'll be on your own. But Steve leaves these thoughts:

If some people wanted to step up and join Miss Mary Dollison's green shirted "Support our Students" program that would be great. That program could be expanded to every school in the county or even the state.

Any individual efforts should be taken with a long-term view towards sustainability and a short-term view towards infrastructure.

People wanting to support Tracy, the softest rock ever, should view their efforts not as a flash in the pan but a long-term commitment to her regathering her sense of self.

You can get a memorial T-shirt from Julie Fritz at the church.

We are setting up funding mechanisms through The Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County for three previously unfunded organizations – Muncie OUTreach, NAACP Muncie, and the MLK Dream Team and these can be donated into. Steve reminds us that giving is more effective when there is long-term sustainable funding. Structural issues require structural solutions.

Donations could also be made to Water is Basic or the Terre Haute CANDLES Holocaust Museum and Education Center, as well as other organizations of the donor's choice that reach out to any marginalized population.

## May 2020 UUCM Calendar

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

### Regular Weekly Zoom Events

Check the eBlast for links to these Zoom meetings and more.

|                                     |           |          |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Adult Discussion Group              | Sundays   | 9:30 am  |
| Worship Service                     | Sundays   | 10:45 am |
| Choir Gathering                     | Tuesdays  | 8:00 pm  |
| RE Story Time                       | Mon & Wed | 3:30 pm  |
| Youth Group                         | Thursdays | 11:30 am |
| Chat with Rev. Julia                | Thursdays | 3:00 pm  |
| Isolation Busters with Cindy Turner | Fridays   | 1:00 pm  |



### Congregational Meeting

The Board of Trustees has postponed the Congregational meeting until June 14, at 12:30 pm, to ensure that virtual voting will be safe and inclusive for the congregation.

A budget review session will be held Sunday, May 17, after the service, to answer questions and prepare for voting at the June meeting. Watch the eBlast for more information and links to join these Zoom meetings.

Thank you for participating in UUCM's democratic process!

### May Dedicated Offering Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors

Our Dedicated Offering for May goes again to the Second Harvest Food Bank. We continue to support Second Harvest in light of the continuing hunger crisis associated with the response to the pandemic. At a recent tailgate distribution over 600 cars were lined up for food. Our hungry neighbors need our help more than ever.

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana is devoted to feeding the hungry, advocating for those with food insecurity and providing nutrition education. They fight hunger by working with partner agencies, local schools, corporate partners and a wide network of volunteers to serve hundreds of people each week. Their vision is to see the people of our region free from hunger and self-sufficient.

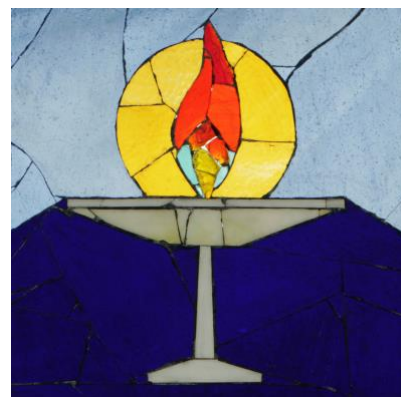
UUCM has long been a supporter of Second Harvest as part of our mission to Feed Our Hungry Neighbors. Now they need volunteers and financial help to cope with this unprecedented crisis.

You may volunteer to help out by contacting Second Harvest via their website

<https://curehunger.org/get-involved/volunteer/> or calling Kellie Arrowood at 765-287-8689 ext. 105.

Financial contributions may be mailed to the church, earmarked *Second Harvest*. You may also give directly to Second Harvest at

<https://curehunger.org/get-involved/donate/>



"Unitarianism" Harshman Panel  
Photo by Gunther Cartwright

# UUCM Staff & Leadership

## Staff

**Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Minister**  
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**Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister**  
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**Christie Williams, Office Administrator**  
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Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 4:00 pm | Tuesday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm | Wednesday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

## Board of Trustees

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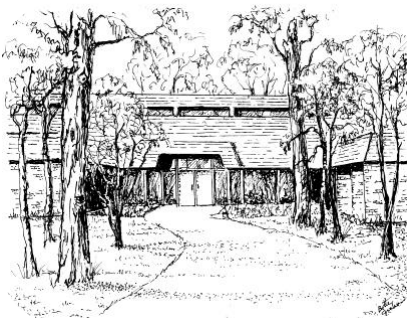
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## Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie

4800 West Bradford Drive  
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