



the UNIGRAM

But What Can I Do?

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

As I've followed the news reports of the demonstrations that have arisen in the wake of the brutal police murder of George Floyd and the on-going revelations of apparently endless instances of police brutality directed against Black American citizens, I've become frustrated. I feel called to be part of the struggle reflected in the protests, but how? As a human being and as a Community Minister, I *should* be there. And I *want* to be.

But the days when I could feasibly participate in a protest march are over: I'm old and use a walker to get around. I'd be more in the way than anything else. Additionally, the videos of police intentionally attacking older protesters and injuring them are stuck in my mind. Because I'm old, I'm also at risk for serious illness should I contract covid-19, as is my husband. Due to some earlier experiences with protests, including being shoved, injured and tear-gassed, the thought of putting myself in that situation again fills me with anxiety. So within my limitations, what can I do? What can we do, no matter what our situation?

Recently, I came across an article on an online platform (issuu.com) titled "26 ways to be in the struggle beyond the streets." The 10 authors acknowledge that not all people can attend rallies and protests and

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Splinters from the Board

Emily Wornell, President

Caroline Sullivan, Past President

When I accepted the nomination for president-elect last year, I did not imagine that my time on the board would be easy. This last year, full of transition and change, has done nothing to dispel this sentiment. Almost immediately after I started on the board, we began to prepare for the special congregational meeting in which we voted to retain our settled minister for the remainder of his negotiated term. Many long and hard conversations followed this vote, and more than once I came home from a 4-hour board meeting in tears, from both exhaustion and the

emotional nature of some of our discussions. It's been hard in many ways I anticipated and a few I didn't – couldn't. But it's also been hopeful and rewarding in both obvious and not so obvious ways.

Change and transition is hard. Period. That's true for everyone and every group. Tempers can flare, heads can butt, and disagreements can arise in the most amicable and positive transitions, and certainly our transitions over the last year have not always been amicable or positive. But we kept showing up. During a year that could have broken us apart, we kept coming back and fighting for our community. Your dedication to our community fills me with hope for our future. We're on the verge of

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Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

Service at 10:45 am July Theme :: Exploring Our Six UU Sources

This month we will continue to explore the sources of our Unitarian Universalist tradition. Join us via Zoom at 10:45 am, every Sunday! Links for the Zoom and the Order of Service will be in the eBlast each Friday, and posted on Facebook early Sunday mornings.

July 5 – American Documents with Brandon Mundell

July 12 – Source 1: Direct Experience with Karen & Jay Moorman

July 19 – Source 4: Jewish/Christian teachings with Rev. Amy Beltain and Bill Frederick

July 26 – Source 3: Wisdom from World Religions with Rev. Julia and Diane Hill

Religious Education for Children & Youth

Summer Sundays 10:00-10:30 am

Please join us as we continue our RE Summer Sundays, **Backyard Zoom Bonanza!** The zoom link will be posted in Friday’s eBlast.

Adult Religious Exploration

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.

Behind the scenes at UUCM “Live” Services

After the June 21 service, **Jim Helton** reminded **Ben Strack**, **Ric Dwenger** and me of the opening scene from the movie, Broadcast News. The two beautiful anchors are in their places, perfectly composed, ready to read. Behind the scenes, a staffer scrambles to prepare a late breaking news item, dashing madly about, nearly tripping over cords and other equipment. That’s not *quite* what happens in our sanctuary on Sunday, but every week there is some potential glitch which makes me wonder if this is the Sunday our live service won’t happen. I try to sit quietly and have faith that all will work out, and so far it has. On June 21, a port on the Sights and Sounds computer gave out (after being uncooperative for several weeks), and Ben had to quickly download the service slides to his computer. One Sunday we lost the internet; there were sound quality issues June 14. Every Sunday is different, and we learn something each week.

Thanks to everyone for their patience – especially lay worship participants (of which we have many during the summer) who sign in on time for their 9:45 am preservice zoom meeting only to wait until equipment/technology issues are solved before the critical run-through of the order of service.

Live services will be less tenuous (but probably not without other challenges) when the congregation buys its own production equipment (thanks to a \$5000 grant) that can be set up for the duration of the COVID close down. For now our chief production guru, Ben Strack, (and what would we do without him?) is hauling his own equipment to church every Sunday and setting up – once again – from scratch.

Bea Sousa, Worship Associate co-chair

Summer Worship Series

Six Sources....What Is That All About?

Can you name the Six Sources of Unitarian Universalism? And why do we have them?

Each summer the Worship Associates team sets a theme for six of the seven summer Sundays we are responsible for worship. We decided this year to explore UU Six Sources because we don't know as much about them as we could, and that is probably true for much of the congregation. Full disclosure: we had to check the hymnal to list all of them!

Briefly, the first five Sources came about as part of a 1961 revision of the Principles and were approved in the early 70's. (UUs are deliberative! It takes two consecutive years of affirmative General Assembly votes to add anything to the Principles or Sources.) The Sixth Source was approved in 1995.

Our **Seven Principles** are not beliefs... they are aspirations. The Principles make statements about the world we envision. The **Six Sources** guide us to understand our principles more fully. They are the inspirations from which we draw in our personal searches for truth and meaning.

Some of us draw from one source more than others; some of us draw exclusively from one. Some of us find inspiration in all of them. Rev. Beth Miller writes, "We acknowledge the value of *all* the sources under our big tent of perspectives and are not surprised to hear any of them reflected in worship."

Please join us in this exploration. Your worship team hopes that this summer's exploration of the "big tent" of inspirations under which we all gather will help our congregation move forward. We are a living tradition open to "growth, change, new information and understanding." *And this summer everyone will be in town!*

Here is our summer schedule and the people who have agreed to help us understand how each Source helps us live into our aspirations. The services are not in Source order because the series was designed pre-COVID, when individual summer plans drove the schedule.

Source 1: Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life.

July 12: Karen & Jay Moorman and others

Source 3: Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life.

July 26: Diane Hill with **Rev. Julia**

Source 4: Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves.

July 19: Bill Frederick with Rev. Amy Beltain (Possibly zooming from Portugal where she was when the pandemic began.)

Source 5: Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.

August 2: Caroline Sullivan with **Mike Sullivan** and **Tom Lowe**

On *July 5* we will celebrate our nation's anniversary with our American Documents service. What documents will **Brandon Mundell** choose this year?

~**Bea Sousa**, *Worship Associates Co-chair*

Religious Education Corner

Nadine Tringali

Director of Religious Education

Please join us as we continue our RE Summer Program, Backyard Zoom Bonanza!

Our summer program is open to all children and youth, but is targeted for children from preschool through 5th grade. Classes are 10:00am- 10:30am every Sunday.

Families will receive an email at the beginning of each week with recommendations of outdoor activities to try or supplies to collect for the following Sunday's class. Activities will vary each week and will encourage children to find things that make them go "Wow" and to discover new ways to play.

If your children don't have time during the week to do the activities, they are still encouraged to attend on Sundays for time to share and gather together.

Please contact **Nicole Kaplan** (she/they) with any questions at nicole.c.kaplan@gmail.com.

Nadine



Service Auction 2020

July 9 – 11

Hello UUCM Members and Friends!

The Virtual Service Auction will take place online from **July 9 at Noon to July 11 at 8:00 pm**. The **auction website is:** charityauction.bid/2020uucm.

Please read the information below as it describes how the auction will work and what you need to do in order to participate!



Registration

Register for a bidder account online at: charityauction.bid/2020uucm. You will not be able to bid without an account. *(If you do not have computer access or are unable to place online bids, contact **Mary Johnson Robey** or **Jennifer Parks-Strack** and we can help you make bids via proxy.)*

Catalog & Bidding

charityauction.bid/2020uucm is also where you can look at the catalog and where you will make your bids! As items get entered, you can check the website to see the catalog.

Bidding will work a lot like eBay. If you are interested in an item, you place a bid through your account. To make it super easy, you can set a maximum price you're willing to pay and it will automatically increase your bids for you! Otherwise, you will receive an email when you are outbid.

The *Buy It Now* feature will be active! If you love an offering and don't want to compete in the bidding process, just "Buy It Now" and it is yours!

Donate

If you look through the website and don't see any offerings that pique your interest, you can just make an online donation through the "Donate" tab. It will count towards the total raised by the auction. Watch that thermometer move!

Check Out

When the auction is over, you will receive an email with the total amount that you owe and what items that you won. If you entered your credit card during the registration process, it will be super easy to check out. You will also be able to pay via PayPal or check.

**If you need technical assistance during the auction, please reach out to Jennifer via email or by phone: 269-274-8073, Jennifer.e.parks@gmail.com.

But What Can I Do?

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

affirms the importance and validity of *all* contributions. They offer 26 concrete suggestions for supporting the cause without protesting, with relevant websites. I urge you to read the full article at <https://bit.ly/38gTrlz> if you're looking for ways to be a part of ending racism and police brutality that don't require being able to demonstrate.

We can *all* do something to address the concerns that are giving rise to the BLM movement

Working through organizations we're already involved with is a good place to begin. Almost any organization dedicated to social welfare, creating a more humane society, access to health care, addressing food insecurity and so on will benefit the Black community, because Black Americans are disproportionately affected by all forms of limited care, food, the prison-industrial complex and so on

Monetary contributions count too, as does direct participation. Don't let anyone tell you that your dollars are not as important as your participation; that just isn't true. "You can't just throw money at it" diminishes the importance of a sound financial base. Any organization needs contributions to survive. They need steady contributions they can rely on. Too, though, don't let anyone tell you that you can't make a meaningful contribution *unless* you can offer financial support. Every movement, every organization, every nascent social transformation needs its feet on the ground people. There is and always will be room for everyone. There is so much to be done, we can ill afford to diminish what any of us can do.

Due to the covid-19 pandemic, many of us are reluctant to gather in groups. If you're OK with at least some group activities, there are many things you can do without participating in a protest march. Host or attend any of many trainings and workshops on racism, white privilege, protester rights, anti-criminalization, or police brutality. Protesters often need childcare; organize or provide it. If you're in the area of a protest, open your home as a safe space, a home base where people can

escape from the intensity, have some water or food, and decompress. Host an event. Deliver food, water bottles and hand sanitizer to protest sites.

Even if you are avoiding group gatherings out of concern for your health or the health of those for whom you provide care, you still have many options. There are many things that can be done online, and more are being added. Fundraising is a good example of how you can make a significant difference from your home. Using social media to advertise and get the word out about activities in your community is another. Cell phones and texting allow you to be the emergency contact for people who are protesting. Create and share art, if you're artistic in any way, art that expresses the anger, the hope, the grief, and the promise, of this time in history. Be a self-care companion for someone who is protesting. Connect with them before, during and after the march by phone or text. Check in with them during the march itself. If you sew, make masks for protesters. Contact your elected representatives to express your outrage about racism and to demand positive change. Write letters to your newspaper editor. VOTE every chance you get, but especially this November.

No matter what else, we can all continue to reflect on our own privilege and power, deepening our understanding of how much we have benefitted if we are not a person of color. Have the tough conversations with family and friends. Read. Listen to the voices of Black people; they are the authorities on their lives under racism. If you believe in the power of prayer, by all means pray. If not, don't.

Take care of yourselves and those you love. These are unprecedented, nearly-unimaginably challenging times, and our hearts and minds can hold only so much. Practice good self-care, whatever that looks like for you, and share what self-care knowledge you can with others. Extend grace and compassion to others and to yourself. Know that it's OK to take a break. There is room for *all* of us.

Rev. Julia

Splinters from the Board (continued from page 1)

Emily Wornell, President

welcoming our new interim minister – someone with years of experience in both transitional and developmental ministry. I have hope that she can guide us with love and compassion as we acknowledge, accept, and repair the hurts of the past and prepare for a new settled minister. The folks you have elected to the board are incredibly dedicated to our UU principles and to our community. I am regularly humbled by their thoughtfulness and care in confronting incredibly difficult and fraught situations over the last year. I have hope in our new board that we'll continue to work in the best interest of our community as we face new difficult situations and hard decisions.

And certainly, this coming year will present us all with new challenges. Not only are we transitioning into new leadership in our church, but we're doing so in the middle of a global pandemic, significant domestic unrest, incredible injustice and inequality, and isolation from each other and our broader social supports. Even in the midst of these uncertain times, I have hope in you and our church community. We are developing a COVID taskforce to help navigate the hard decisions to come. We have established a contact plan to ensure our most vulnerable members and friends aren't overly isolated. We have moved our fundraising events online. We lived our values by passing a budget that provides much needed and deserved raises to our staff despite the potentially difficult financial future. We continue to host small group, youth, and children's activities virtually. We see each other's faces every Sunday for virtual services. We have continued to show up for each other through a hard year full of expected and unexpected transitions. I have hope that we will continue to meet these challenges head on and, most importantly, in community together.

In loving service,

Emily Wornell

Caroline Sullivan, Past President

2019-2020 has been quite a year to be president of the UUCM Board of Trustees, beginning with the resignation of Reverend Seth. It was a time of great angst that left many of us wondering what the future of this beloved church might be. **We are going to be okay.** Reconciliation will take time, and it will take difficult conversations. But as a congregation we are ready to do this. Concluding the year was the arrival of the pandemic. **We are going to be okay.** With the resilience and creativity UUCM has shown, we will follow guidelines recommended by our COVID team to be prepared to open the church building when it is safe to do so.

I cannot thank the UUCM Board of Trustees enough for its support and hard work. John Bartlett, Jennifer Hollems, Brandon Mundell, Mary Johnson Robey, and Emily Wornell have gone above and beyond throughout the entire year with meeting many extra times and making difficult decisions. Christie Williams has always been ready to help wherever and whenever needed. Thank you, congregation members, for your candid communications; the board has responded with honesty and transparency to your concerns.

We welcome and support Emily Wornell as she assumes the presidency of the UUCM Board of Trustees. We welcome and support Rev. Barbara Coeyman as she joins us as our interim minister. We at UUCM are courageous, we are strong, we are creative, and we are a loving congregation. Join us as we journey into the 2020-2021 church year.

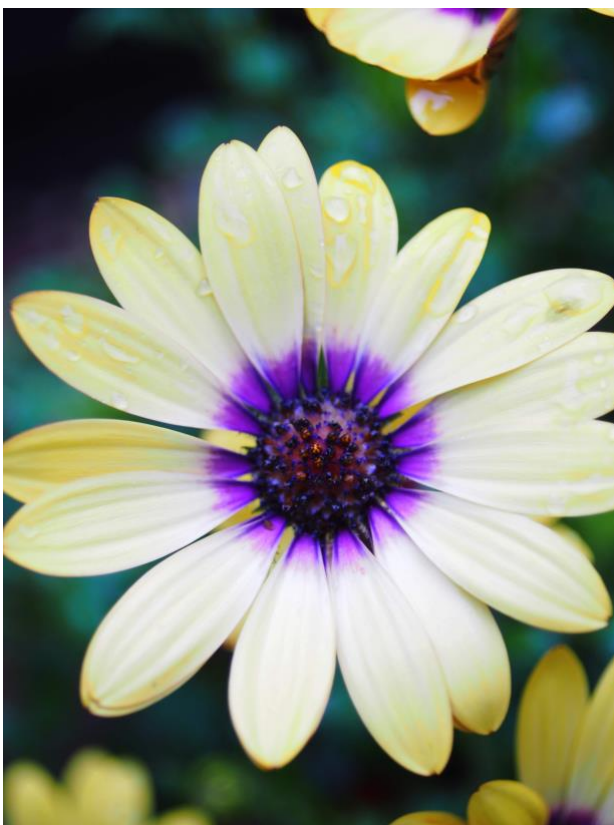
In love and leadership,

Caroline Sullivan

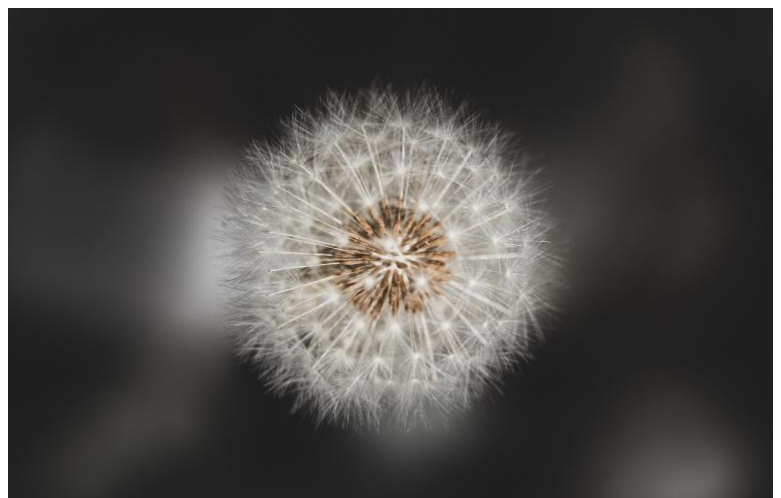
Sharing Gratitude

A special thank you to **Susan Bossung, Lisa Cox, Bruce Craig, Susan Taylor, Jeff Turner, and Christie Williams** for agreeing to serve on the COVID team. This is the group that will be studying the guidelines proposed by the UUA and local health officials to determine when and how the church building can be reopened. ~**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."



*O source of the turning seasons,
Of earth, of life, of promise gradually
becoming fulfillment,
May your people find a lightening of the
burdens with the brightening of the sky.*
~Helen Cohen



July 2020 UUCM Calendar

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

Regular Zoom Events

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

Adult Discussion Group	Sundays	9:30 am
RE Backyard Zoom Bonanza!	Sundays	10:00 am
Worship Service	Sundays	10:45 am
RE Story Time	Mon & Wed	3:30 pm
Board of Trustees	2 nd Wednesday	6:30 pm
Youth Group	Thursdays	11:30 am
Isolation Busters with Cindy Turner	Fridays	1:00 pm



Summer Office Hours

I'm still here at our beautiful Church in the Woods during regular office hours. Even though our building is closed to in-person business, you can reach me by phone 765.288.9561 or email uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org.

I miss everyone's presence here, but I'm grateful we are doing our part to stay safe and well!

~Christie

Office Hours

Monday

1:00-4:00 pm

Tuesday – Thursday

9:00 am-4:00 pm

Closed Fridays

July Dedicated Offering Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors

Our Dedicated Offering for July 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. 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

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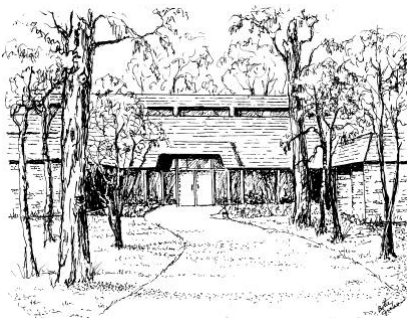
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