



the UNIGRAM

Turning Points

Rev. Barbara Coeyman, Interim Minister

Tuesday November 3 is Election Day. This election certainly will go down in the history of the United States as a turning point in the identity of this country. Officially our every-four-years Presidential election is indicated on the calendar by a single day. As most of us are well aware that in 2020 this act of voting which is fundamental to American democracy has expanded from an Election Day into an Election Season, several months in duration. For so long now Americans have been living with anticipation, concern, engagement, wondering, and media overload. Not only have we been living in long build-up to November 3, it is also very likely that Election Day will not mark the end of Election Season. There may be a wait of several days, perhaps even several weeks, until results in many of the races are officially confirmed. Rather than a single day as a turning point, our country may need to wait through and wade through several turning points over many days until we arrive at even a modicum of political stability. Even after official results are announced, there may be continuing anxiety and uncertainty. We face the very real possibility of challenge to the official results, more days and weeks of unsettlement, perhaps even protesting, unrest, and violence as Americans acclimate to

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Vulnerability, Healing and Connection: A Meditation

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

Some of you have heard at least parts of this story because I've used it in other contexts. But it's very much to the point as we consider our November theme—healing—and how that relates to vulnerability, trust, and connection. It was, in short, the hospital experience from hell. I'd fallen while we were in Florida; I never did find out exactly what injury or injuries I had sustained, thanks to some uncommunicative people, gaslighting, and some oddly "missing" x-rays. What's relevant here is that by the time I was finally in a room, I'd been awake for 36

hours and had been given no adequate pain medication nor food (and surgery wasn't in the picture).

I'd seen very few medical personnel. I had been told that they couldn't do anything more about pain control than the relatively little that had been done because they "didn't give the stronger drugs to elderly people." My perception was that no one seemed to care! Needless to say, I was pretty much at the end of my rope.

About 4:00 in the morning, a different nurse came into the room. Even in my sleep-deprived, pain-wracked, and emotionally raveled state, I recognized something about her that indicated life

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Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

Service at 10:45 am November :: Healing

November 1 – “Remembering All Souls” Rev. Coeyman

At this time of the year several religious celebrations invite us to reflect on our relationship with others. Day of the Dead is a Mexican holiday honoring departed loved ones. In Christian tradition, All Saints Day honors church mothers and fathers such as Saint Patrick. Today we focus on All Souls Day, a festival to honor not Saints but “regular” folks. The “Souls” within Unitarian Universalism include our ancestors in this free religion as well as ancestors in our personal lives. “All Souls” is also the name of several UU congregations. This service will include a photo ceremony of remembrance of departed “Souls” you the congregation want to honor. Also, don’t forget the UUCM Halloween parade, for persons of all ages in costume, at the end of the service!

November 8 – “We Need One Another” Rev. Coeyman

Even after Election Day on November 3, it is very likely that we will be in a period of uncertainty about the outcome of elections and the forward direction of the United States. These times call us to remain flexible enough to meet whatever is coming and brave enough to live the values of liberal faith no matter how we go forward. These times remind us how much we need one another, to overcome fear, to live in the paradox of knowing and not knowing, to imagine our relationships not as oppositional corners but instead as the circle of love and compassion which our Universalist ancestors called us to live in.

November 15 – UUCM Youth Service

This year’s Youth Sunday is all about finding hope. As you may have noticed, the coronavirus has taken a toll on everyone both in and outside the congregation. This youth Sunday will hopefully bring light into your lives and help you get through this unfortunate time with uplifting songs (both popular songs and original ones too), words that encourage the mind, and stories from your church’s youth.

November 22 – “Sharing the Harvest: A Multi-Generational Thanksgiving Service”

Rev. Coeyman, Nadine Tringali

Today in our multi-generational Thanksgiving service we are reminded of the importance of sharing: all the year through and especially during this holiday time of gratitude. We will hold a virtual Bread Communion to acknowledge the many blessings we do enjoy, even during this time of social isolation. Tune in to this service to find out what happened “The Day the Turkey Walked.”

November 29 – Shared Worship: Visiting UUs of Fort Wayne

Join with our neighboring UU congregation in Fort Wayne for a holiday service of poetry.

Religious Education for Children & Youth

10:00 am & 12:30 pm

Please join us as we continue our religious exploration online via Zoom each Sunday morning! The RE zoom links will be posted each week in the UUCM Friday eBlast.

November 1, 8, 15, 22 – PreK-1 & 2-5 RE classes at 10:00am / MSHS Class at 12:30 (no class on 11/15)

November 29 – Story Time with Nadine, 10-10:30am, NO RE Classes

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.

Religious Education Corner

Nadine Tringali

Director of Religious Education

Our online religious education classes began on Sunday, September 13. For more information about our Religious Education Program, please visit the UUCM website.

- For Preschool through Fifth grade, we are using the UUA theme-based curriculum, *Soul Matters*. One session each month will focus on a different aspect of dismantling white supremacy as it relates to the theme. Please note that our online Preschool-1st grade grouping is geared toward children 4 years and older. Children 3 years of age are always welcome to join us, but will need closer parental supervision.
- For our combined MS and HS class, we are using *On the Road Together*, a Soul Matters theme-based youth resource filled with creative, faith-based worship, games, mindfulness moments and discussion starters. One session each month will focus on anti-racism as it relates to the theme.

We have purchased a year-long *Soul Matters Soulful Home* subscription for our families to enjoy! **The theme for November is Healing.** Families will receive a packet at the beginning of each month that is organized around eight distinct family “spaces” with ideas and resources to fill those spaces with UU-theme based exploration. It is about creating memorable and amazing moments!

Please join us for our “**Youth Sunday**” on **November 15!** Guided by Nicole Kaplan, our Coordinator of Youth Programming, the youth have created a truly special service for us on the theme of *Hope*.

Nadine

Youth Programs

Nicole Kaplan

Coordinator of Youth Programming

Youth Group meets most Sundays from 1:30 - 3 pm on Sundays in Zoom Room #2

<https://zoom.us/j/5150188364>

Special Dates

November 1 - Youth Group will meet at its normal time. It is incredibly important that anyone who wants to participate in Youth Sunday is present. If you cannot attend Youth Group, please email me.

November 15 - Youth Sunday!!! Please attend church to support our youth who have worked so hard on this service. There will be no MSHS RE or Youth Group.

Breaditation

This month's special activity will be a meditation through bread baking. This can be done solo or as a whole family. Keep an eye out for an email with details on how to sign up. Everyone who wants to will be able to participate will be able to do so regardless of food restrictions.

Have a wonderful month! I hope to see you around!

Nicole



Splinters from the Board

Emily Wornell, President

Michael and I recently welcomed a new family member and an old friend into our home: a 7-foot, walnut-finished, richly toned, 1920 Steinway piano. She's beautiful, both because she just *is* but also because of her history. Built 100 years ago, she started her life in San Francisco. In 1921, a famous French pianist, Alfred Cortot, sat at her bench and played her keys. He loved her tone and musicality so much that he signed her metal frame. At some point along the way, this one of a kind piano made its way to Ms. Bettie, a piano teacher in Washington State, and at some point after that, a cheeky little boy sat at her bench and played her keys. At 5 years old, that little boy was younger than Bettie typically taught, but after plunking around on this grand mam of a piano, he asked Bettie, "who is going to teach me when I'm better than you?" And that was that. Michael started his piano career at 5 years old playing a masterful instrument that was once graced by a musical icon and that now sits in our front room next to her 7.6 foot, black-finished, 2000 Yamaha brother.

I love thinking about the history of this piano that has traversed the country over the last 100 years; she has been played and loved by both world-famous professionals and cheeky-young beginners; she has given birth to the beauty of sonatas, ballads, concerti, and nocturns under the expert fingers of classically trained pianists and she has endured wrong notes, banged out too harshly by the tiny fingers of children who scratch the finish of the fall board. But I also love to think about the *future* of this piano, her potential and capacity. Both of these things – her rich history and possible future – are what make this particular instrument so special and so different from any other instrument in the world.

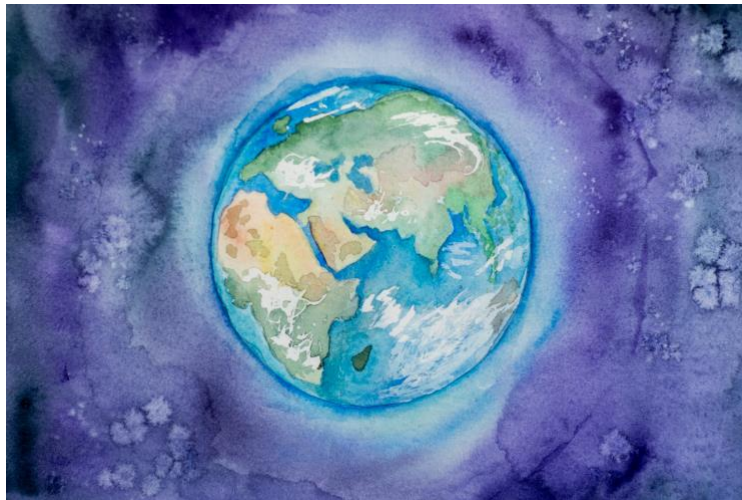
So it is with us and our community. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie has a 160-year-old beautiful, rich history. Sometimes we've flourished,

grown, and prospered, like keys being played lovingly by an expert; at other times in our history we've hit wrong notes, played too loud or too softly, or maybe just played the wrong piece all together. All of it is part of who we are today, and all of it – each perfect melody and each wrong chord – makes us unique and influences who will be as a community in the future. Unlike a piano, however, we have choice in what that future looks like. We get to choose what things from our past we want to carry with us, and what things we want to heal and move on from. We get to reflect on and decide what things are or are not working, and then pivot and redirect as needed. We get the beautiful opportunity to reimagine ourselves in relation to each other and then work hard to make imaging a reality.

In that spirit, we are taking the opportunity provided by COVID and a ministerial transition to reflect on what is and isn't working for us as a community and congregation. The Committee on Ministries, for example, is undertaking an assessment of our committee structure to identify potential gaps and overlap that should be addressed. Likewise, the Board of Trustees is looking to clarify its role in shared ministry with the minister and congregation. We are also exploring opportunities for more integrated leadership development and effective governance. This isn't exclusive, or even primarily, the work of the board or the COM, though; it is *our* work, the work of the community, which means that your voice is essential to the success and sustainability of this reimagining. So, keep an eye out for opportunities to be involved in these conversations in the near future, and let's reimagine together as we honor our past and plan for our future.

In loving service,

Emily



November Dedicated Offering

Understandably, COVID-19 is the #1 topic these days. But what if the pandemic was the “prequel” to the climate crisis?

In the Fall 2020 issue of *UU World*, acclaimed author and activist Naomi Klein asks, “will we keep pretending there is time to spare, even as the fires lick our doorsteps?” It looks to us that human suffering on a scale that once seemed unthinkable has unmistakably arrived, and is getting worse, though we often fail to recognize it.

What can we as citizens and UUs do?

The **Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth** (www.uumfe.org) is the recipient of UUCM’s dedicated offering in November.

UUMFE’s three guiding Values are:

- *We are grounded in faith and spirituality, and we understand climate justice to be a moral imperative.*
- *We affirm the framework of race- and class-informed environmental justice and strive to center the leadership and needs of frontline communities.*
- *We know that individual consumption choices are not enough. Only through partnership and collective action can we save our biosphere.*

What kind of actions and partners are they referring to? Just look at the ACT and RESOURCES sections of their website. They do not dwell on the daunting problem. They emphasize solutions. They are building a **new** vision of a more just, equitable, and sustainable world. As always, financial support is crucial.

It’s scary to really face up to this crisis. After so much denial and delay, time has nearly run out. The outcome is uncertain. But uncertainty means that there is room for hope. Moreover, taking action is probably the best antidote to dread and anxiety – especially grassroots collective action, and UUs know that we are not alone.

Be brave, take a risk, and give generously.

Donate via text during a Sunday service or mail a check to the church office with DO on the memo line.

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Rev. Barbara Coeyman (continued from page 1)

the outcomes of the election, no matter on which 'side' those outcomes will fall. During the roughly ten weeks between Election Day and Inauguration Day, Americans face the actual threat of violence. Whatever the results of the many races in this election, things may not be peaceful for quite a while.

Indeed through this election and the exercise of our democratic responsibility to vote, Americans are truly asserting the core identity of this country. The President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Susan Frederick-Gray has recently written: "One thing we must be honest about is the reality that our democracy is under attack and has been for a long time.... The most important thing we can do to make sure our voices are heard is to vote in massive numbers. ... We must be prepared to join in collective, moral, faithful action to defend our democracy."

Many corners of society, many local governments, many churches, many departments of the Unitarian Universalist Association, including the regional and national staff, are calling us as individuals and as congregations in the weeks after November 3 to be proactive, to accept the reality of reactivity over things political in our cities and towns, the reality of ongoing civic unrest and more assaults on our civil rights and on vulnerable people. We UUs are called to be ready to help our communities as need arises, perhaps to the point of opening up our church buildings as sanctuaries to persons who are displaced or threatened, or to protestors, or to medics who are called in to care for protestors. Continuing the words of UUA President Frederick-Gray, "It is important to remember that our commitment to democracy is not just political or moral: it is fundamentally theological. It grows from our affirmation of the inherent worth and dignity of every person. That we are all part of one creation." Indeed, we are all called to care for fellow human

beings. We UUs must be prepared to step up and step in, in the event of reactivity and unrest in the greater Muncie community. While Election 2020 appears on the calendar for one day, we know well that it has taken months and even years of preparation for singularly important day. We also know well that it will require weeks and months of follow up after Election Day as we live into the voices of the voters, no matter the specific outcomes of the many races on the ballot this election.

Aren't there some parallels with transitioning ministry which UUCM is pursuing right now? There was a single day last May when the UUCM interim search team invited me as interim minister. We might consider that single day as a turning point. But, just as our political system marks on day on the calendar as the day for electing its next roster of leaders but we know that a political election is not just about one day only, so with congregational life. This new interim ministry at UUCM --- and indeed any new ministry --- results not from just one day of attention, one day of voting for a new minister. Any ministry --- those that we "professional" ministers engage in, those that you the congregations do as part of your commitment to "shared ministry" --- ask of us on-going commitment. I know that for me as a minister, interim search requires weeks and perhaps sometimes even months of preparation: updating my personal website, filling out my Ministerial Records, doing research on the many congregations looking for ministers to ascertain which ones I might be a good fit with. Much time and energy leads up to that single day --- we call it the "Ask Day" --- when we UU ministers are invited to serve UU congregations. The same is true of the many congregational volunteers who serve on ministerial search teams, such as the dedicated group at UUCM who served recently on the team for interim search: they invested hours and hours of time creating their congregation's search materials, interviewing

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candidates, and making decisions. Their “Ask” of a candidate to become the next minister is a consequence of a long and thoughtful process over weeks and months.

Just as the days and probably weeks following Election Day 2020 will require that each of us Americans continue to work for that more perfect democracy we know is possible, so in this congregation, that “Ask Day” back in May when you invited a new minister was a turning point but certainly not complete turning, certainly not the end of transitioning. In fact, that day back in May was just the beginning of the work of turning and transitioning going forward. Interim ministry is the work of all of us: of me as the interim minister of UUCM, of the professional staff, and of you the congregation. This is the “shared ministry” of which I have spoken often, to realize that transformation in congregational life is the responsibility of everyone. Just as waiting for outcomes of election results may require patience, so does realizing the eventual outcomes of this transitioning process at UUCM .

I am grateful to be serving with all of you in the shared ministry of this congregation at this critical time of turning in the spiritual life of this congregation and in the political life of our country. May we go forward well together. Truly more than ever, we do need one another to advance the values of liberal faith which this world desperately needs, no matter the political outcomes.

See you in Virtual Church!

Rev. Barbara



Two people can keep each other sane...

*Three people are a delegation,
a committee, a wedge...*

With six you can... hold a fundraising party.

A dozen make a demonstration.

A hundred fill a hall.

A thousand have solidarity...

*It goes on one at a time,
it starts when you care to act,*

*it starts when you do
it again after they said no,*

it starts when you say We...

~Marge Piercy

Vulnerability, Healing and Connection: A Meditation

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

had not been particularly kind to her. She introduced herself and let me know that she had just come on the unit and was rounding, then asked if there was anything she could do. My response surprised me—I asked her if she could simply sit with me for a while. She said she had only four people on her end of the floor, and she would be back as soon as she had seen them.

It wasn't long at all until she returned and pulled a chair over to the bed. She grasped my hand and invited me to tell her whatever I wanted to about what was going on. I don't even recall what all I told her, but I knew she had heard me. Not only "the facts" of what I said. She heard my fear, loneliness, and frustration. And my despair. Afterward, she said she was going to see what she could do about pain medication. She returned shortly, having found a hospitalist who was willing to order stronger meds. She continued to sit with me and hold my hand as the meds dripped slowly into my IV. My last memory was drifting off into pain-free sleep, my hand in hers.

The healing process begins at the point at which we can begin to trust another person—a family member, a friend, a helping professional—enough to allow ourselves to be known. We grow our sense of safety at our own pace. Telling our stories is central to the healing process, and to do so, we must have a safe, nurturing, and caring environment. In telling our stories in a situation in which they are received with care and compassion, so that we feel heard, we construct a new internal environment in which we can begin to integrate these events into a sense of new wholeness and meaning. This happens in our individual lives, and it can happen in the life of our community as well. It *can* and needs to happen in *our* beloved community.

As we reflect on past hurtful events in the space opened up by trust and vulnerability, we can move into a more nuanced, thoughtful relationship with what happened. We may come to a different understanding of the people who hurt us and may even accept some responsibility on our own part. We may have new, more appropriate boundaries and a new capacity for trust, relationship, and openness within those boundaries. In a community setting especially, we may choose to put guidelines in place to lessen the chances of similar things recurring.

One thing we need to keep in mind is that if we choose to be vulnerable, our vulnerability will not always be met with a positive response; there are no guarantees. Misunderstandings arise, the other person may not be ready for the kind of connection that vulnerability asks of them, or just not feel up to it right then. The challenge then becomes not to shut down subsequently and close ourselves off to other similar experiences. We need to remember as well that there is no need, nor is it a good idea, to be vulnerable with everyone. It's a mark of emotional, spiritual, and social maturity that we choose carefully who to trust with the gift of our vulnerability. That's simply good boundaries and self-care. It's equally important for each of us to *be* that person who others can trust with their tender, vulnerable selves.

As we move more deeply into this time of transition, may we embrace the possibilities of trust and healing. May we reweave the places where the sturdy fabric of our community has come unraveled. Remember that Rev. Barbara, I, and our Pastoral Associates are available to provide pastoral support along the way.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Julia

November 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 Classes: PreK-1 st & 2 nd -5 th grades	Sundays	10:00 am
Worship Service	Sundays	10:45 am
RE Classes: Middle School/High School	Sundays	12:30 pm
Youth Group	Sundays	1:30 pm
Choir Gathering	1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays	8:30 pm
Board of Trustees	2 nd Wednesday	6:30 pm
Trivia Night	1 st & 3 rd Fridays	8:00 pm

November Meetings via Zoom

Check with committee chairs or church office for Zoom links

RE Committee	Sunday	Nov 1	9:00 am
Transition Team	Monday	Nov 2	7:30 pm
Post-Election Drop In Discussion	Wednesday	Nov 4	6-9:00 pm
Pastoral Associates	Tuesday	Nov 10	4:00 pm
UU Book Club	Thursday	Nov 12	7:00 pm
Program Council	Wednesday	Nov 18	6:30 pm

When the heart is supple, it can be "broken open" into a greater capacity to hold our own and the world's pain: it happens every day. When we hold our suffering in a way that opens us to greater compassion, heartbreak becomes a source of healing, deepening our empathy for others who suffer and extending our ability to reach out to them.

~Parker Palmer

Last Week to Buy Quilt Raffle Tickets!

The beautiful "Rainfall" quilt could be yours but you need to buy a ticket to have a chance to win. Check out the wonderful article in the Muncie Journal (<https://bit.ly/31Rj5ez>) to learn more about the great group of people who worked on the 25th raffle quilt. Tickets are available online until noon, Friday, November 6, 2020, for \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Visit our website to purchase your tickets.

www.uuchurchmuncie.org/quilt-raffle-2020/

We are 75% of the way to our goal of \$1000. Help us make it all the way!! A virtual quilt drawing will be held on Facebook, Saturday, November 7, 2020, 1:00 pm.

The quilt was handmade by these talented women: **Nan Barber, Elsbeth Fritz, Beth Gonser, Holly Hanauer, Linda Hanson, Cheryl LeBlanc, Cindi Marini, Cindy Ruman, and Malissa Tong.** Thank you all for your artistry!



UUCM Staff & Leadership

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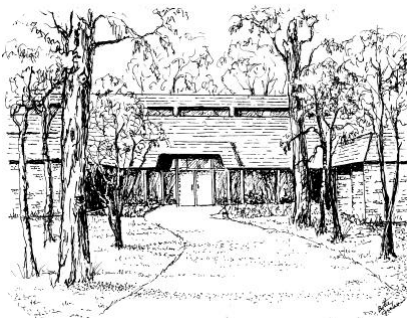
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