



the UNIGRAM

Building Community Through Covenant

Rev. Dr. Barbara Coeyman, Interim Minister

This month I want to talk some more about “covenant.” If you heard my sermon on October 25, and the covenanting ceremony with the Board of Trustees, perhaps my reflections this month will be useful review. If you were not present on the 25th, I hope this will be helpful conversation about the meaning and importance of covenant in liberal religion, and, frankly, in life.

A covenant is a promise for how we will be together --- often expressed as “walk together.” In non-creedal religion, free of imposed doctrine and dogma, covenant is the “glue” which holds liberal faith communities together. Covenants articulate the “deeds,” not the “creeds,” which create and maintain community. Covenants are based on the values which a group connected by covenant deems important and central to its identity. Think about ways in which you are connected to others through common values. Perhaps the most common covenant in modern life is the marriage or partnership covenant: a marriage ceremony ritualizes the promises couples make to one another for how they will share their values as they walk through life together. The President of the Unitarian

(continued on page 8)



In This Issue

<u>Sunday Mornings</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Religious Education News</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Youth Group</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Start Up Workshop</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Dedicated Offering</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Calendar</u>	<u>11</u>

Waiting in Stillness: An Advent Meditation in the Time of COVID

Rev. Dr. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

As some of you know, one of my favorite pieces of poetry is this short quotation from T. S. Eliot’s *The Four Quartets*:

I said to my soul, be still, and wait without hope
 For hope would be hope for the wrong thing; wait
 without love,
 For love would be love of the wrong thing; there is
 yet faith
 But the faith and the love and the hope are all in the
 waiting.
 Wait without thought, for you are not ready for
 thought:

So the darkness shall be the light, and the stillness the dancing.

I first met *The Four Quartets* in an undergraduate poetry class. I didn’t understand it then, and I still make no claim to understand what it means, nor what Eliot had in mind when he wrote it. But it speaks to me in so many situations, including this unlikely time in which we currently find ourselves. What follows is not analysis, but reflection, not examination, but my dialogue with Eliot’s words in this time.

Some of us, certainly, are waiting without **hope**. For me, that doesn’t mean waiting in despair (except when it does, and sometimes it does!). Waiting

(continued on page 10)

Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

Service at 10:45 am December :: Stillness

December 6 – “This Season of Advent: Waiting in Stillness” Rev. Coeyman

Once again Mother Earth turns toward the dormancy of winter in the northern hemisphere. We are in the season of Advent: the season of waiting --- waiting for the Solstice, waiting for the return of light. In this midwinter, the waiting may feel longer and deeper, as Earth’s dormancy is overlaid with new cautions for health and safety, perhaps new responsibilities for home, family and work. Our waiting may include thoughts of stillness: perhaps having too much, perhaps wanting more. How do we cultivate stillness? How do we find patience in the waiting?

December 13 – “Welcome Darkness, Welcome Light” Rev. Coeyman

Today let’s welcome both Darkness and Light. Let’s consider how darkness can enhance spiritual deepening and renewal. Let’s explore mindfulness in the darkness. Let’s also consider the many holidays and celebrations during this time of darkness, especially the ceremony of Santa Lucia, which brings light and life to the world.

December 20 – “Solstice Transformation” Rev. Coeyman

At this time of shortest daylight hours, come join this multi-generational recognition of the Solstice: the longest night of the year and the marking of Earth’s turning once again toward the light.

December 24, 7:00 pm – “Christmas Eve Candlelight Service”

Through music, story, poetry, and candlelight, this service will explore waiting as a spiritual practice and how love is born and reborn in the unlikeliest circumstances with music, story, poetry and candlelight. This service is a collaboration among six area UU congregations: UUCM will join People’s Church of Kalamazoo, Michigan and congregations in Indiana: First Unitarian Church of South Bend, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Wayne, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tippecanoe County, and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Elkhart. The service will culminate with the traditional all-congregation candle lighting ceremony. Information about Zoom connection will be published in eBlasts on December 11 and 18.

December 27 – TBA

Religious Education for Children & Youth

Please join us as we continue our religious exploration online via Zoom. We have new programming beginning in December! The RE zoom links will be posted each week in the UUCM Friday eBlast.

December 6 – PreK-4th grade class at 10:00 am / 5th-12th grade class at 12:30 pm

December 12 (Saturday) – RE Outdoor Gathering at UUCM (all ages), 1:30-2:30 pm

December 13 – No RE classes

December 20 – Story Time with Nadine (all ages welcome) at 10:00 am

December 27 – Story Time with Nadine (all ages welcome) at 10:00 am

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

UU Scavenger Hunts

The LGBT Scavenger Hunt concluded November 30. Our next Scavenger Hunt theme will be **Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement** which will run February and March. The theme **UU Icons** will be our Scavenger Hunt for April and May. If anyone has an interest in painting rocks for our upcoming events, please let me know.

New RE programming!

This month we are beginning our new RE programming! In place of a 2nd Sunday Curriculum class, we will be holding a **2nd Saturday Outdoor Gathering** at UUCM! Please note that 5th grade youth are welcome to join the MSHS class on the 1st Sunday of each month for the Anti-Racism Curriculum class.

- 1st Sunday: **Soul Matters Anti-Racism Curriculum on Zoom**: PreK-4th grade classes combined at 10:00, 5th-12th grade class at 12:30
- 2nd Saturday: **Outdoor Gathering at UUCM** (all ages) 1:30-2:30
- 3rd Sunday: **Story Time on Zoom** (all ages) 10:00
- 4th Sunday: **Social Action Sunday on Zoom** (all ages) 10-10:30
- 5th Sunday: **Story Time on Zoom** (all ages) 10:00

Santa Lucia Ceremony – Sunday, December 13

Please join us this year on December 13 for our annual **Santa Lucia Ceremony**, with **Eloise McKean** as our Santa Lucia! Normally, Santa Lucia processes through the sanctuary with a long line of Star Children behind her. This year, as we are doing it virtually, we will record Santa Lucia processing on a path leading up to the front doors of our beloved church and serving coffee and saffron buns to her parents. Star Children will also be part of the presentation – some of them will be “magically” transformed.

The St. Lucia holiday is celebrated every December 13 in Sweden. On this holiday, the oldest daughter in the family represents St. Lucia, the Queen of Lights. She gets up at dawn and makes coffee and bakes special holiday treats called “Lucia cats” to serve her parents. She wakes them up by singing a song called “Santa Lucia.” The brothers and sisters come too, carrying lighted candles and singing. The candles that Lucia wears on her head, symbolize the light with which Lucia overcomes the darkness. There are many legends about Santa Lucia, and in each one Lucia stands as a symbol of light and hope to all mankind. Santa Lucia's coming begins the feasting, merriment, singing and the spirit of friendliness and goodwill that lasts all through the holidays.

Elsa and **Marvin Reichle** brought this beautiful ceremony to our congregation in 1973. The crown of candles that Santa Lucia will be wearing is the original crown that Elsa bought in Sweden so many years ago! Many thanks to the **Reichle family** for sharing this tradition with us! Also, many thanks to **Liz Lowe** for continuing the tradition of making saffron buns each year for the ceremony and to **Kirk** and **Mary Robey** for their assistance this year.

Soul Matters Soulful Home

I hope our families are enjoying the Soul Matters **Soulful Home** subscription! **The theme for December is Stillness**. Families 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!

Nadine

December Youth Events

Nicole Kaplan, Coordinator of Youth Programming

Youth Group will only be meeting in Zoom Room #2 for the December 6th gathering.

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

Passcode UUcm#1859

Special Dates

December 13 - Youth Group will meet from 1:30-3 in person for our annual holiday party. Location TBA. Please bring one \$5 wrapped or bagged gift if possible. Details below.

December 20 - Youth group will not meet. Youth are encouraged to participate in the Winter Solstice service and/or ceremony.

December 27 - Youth group will not meet. Enjoy intentional time with your families!

Holiday Party

Youth Group will gather in person, outdoors and masked, to celebrate the holidays. While we will not have the massive amounts of food and drinks so that we can keep our masks on the whole time, we will still have our annual gift exchange. If you are able, please bring a wrapped or bagged \$5 gift to include in the exchange. I will have extra wrapped gifts in case you are unable to bring something. We will light our outside chalice, check in, and then have our gift exchange. If there is time, we will play games like mafia/werewolf.

December Activities

For the month of December there will be two activities that youth can participate in either alone in reflection or with their families.

The first activity will be rolling your own beeswax candles. Youth and their families will be notified when kits are available for pickup. Kits will include everything you need to make multiple candles: beeswax sheets, burlap ribbon, and extras for



decorating. The kits will also include resources for reflecting on the darkness of the season and how to shed light around you. If your family needs your candle kit delivered, all you have to do is let me know.

Our second activity will be one that I hope everyone uses multiple times through the month. In the back parking lot of the church, I will be creating a labyrinth to use for reflection and meditation purposes. Just like our walking paths around the building and through the woods, it is possible that you may be on the premises at the same time as someone else. Please bring a mask with you and wear it if you are not alone.

Each week, I will be sending out meditations or focus questions/words/phrases for while you walk the labyrinth. When the labyrinth is ready to go, I will also send recommendations on how to use it in case this is your first encounter with such a thing.

Wishing you all of the hope, wonder, and joy the season can bring! Happy holidays!

Nicole

Reflections from UUCM's Start Up Workshop

Benjamin Strack, President-Elect

In October, Emily wrote in her *Splinters from the Board* about the inherent need to 'Define the Relationship', in particular our expectations and our boundaries of those relationships. While that concept seems simple enough at first glance, when you sit down to 'define the relationship' between a congregation and its new minister, it's easy to not have a clue where to begin. Luckily the UUA does, and has its own system and support to help to start things.

Over two nights in the second week of November, a group of church lay leaders, including the board, met virtually alongside Rev. Barbara and our guide Rev. Sharon Dittmer from the UUA Mid-America Region. While These Start-Up workshops are standard operating procedure when a congregation calls a new minister, Rev. Barbara includes this workshop in her interim work to model expectations for future settled ministry. Because our conversation was virtual, the number of attendees was downsized to keep the meeting more manageable.

The meeting spent a significant amount of time pouring through an obvious but easily overlooked starting point: Paperwork. Rev. Sharon lead us on a journey, highlighting interesting, specific, and/or unusual portions of some of UUCM's governance documents: in particular, the by-laws and interim ministry contract. This exploration led to many conversations about how or why certain things exist, as most often rules are adopted as a reaction to something that has happened within the congregational history. Further, Rev. Sharon invited attendees to think deeply about these documents: she would press at vague, offhanded, or incomplete responses so that we could discuss openly different important aspects of our history, offering Rev. Barbara not only the specifics of earlier decisions about content of governance documents but the historical rationale as to why these things are important to our congregational culture.

(continued on page 9)

Bea Sousa, Worship Associates Co-Chair

On the evenings of November 11-12, about a dozen UUCM members (all of the Board of Trustees and a few other lay leaders) met with Rev Barbara and Rev Sharon Dittmer, Congregational Life Field Service representative from the Mid-America UUA Region, for a "Start up Workshop." The purpose of the workshop was to foster clear communication between lay leaders and Rev. Barbara, as well as establish groundwork for the interim ministry, and to define the covenantal relationship between the congregation and a new minister.

The agenda included: review of our bylaws as well as the Interim Minister Agreement; discussion of how we will carry out anti-racism work; outline of the relationship between a minister and congregants; discussion of our history and culture, worship and pastoral care; and (obviously) recognition of how this work will proceed during the pandemic.

For me, one of the most illuminating aspects took place near the conclusion of the second session, when Rev. Barbara explained her method of time management of her interim ministry. She uses a method based on what is called "ministerial units." Without going into detail here about how this method works (she is happy to explain in more detail to anyone reading this column), she has found it effective through many years of ministry both to support her in defining the scope of her ministry and to develop a covenant with the congregation to understand the scope of her service. Rev Barbara clarified in a following email that there is no one way for ministers to measure their work time: what is important is that a minister have a method for defining the scope of their ministry and that *their method is clearly conveyed to the congregation*.

This information is a new level of transparency for me. Over the years I remember overhearing critical comments about the minister not being in the office when someone stopped at the church during the

(continued on page 9)

December Dedicated Offering: Beneficence Family Scholars

Beneficence Family Scholars (BFS) is a nonprofit dedicated to dismantling generational poverty in East Central Indiana. By helping single parents complete higher education, they help families reach self-sustainability through a better career, and prepare the next generation for success. BFS actively works with families to remove whatever barriers are in the way, including childcare, transportation, financial aid, housing, and other needs. They also offer a range of programs to make sure the whole family is thriving and growing. Finally, they are planning to offer safe, affordable housing in the near future, which will give parents and children the opportunity to live in an education-focused community!

This model is based off of their parent organization, Family Scholar House, which has helped more than 700 families escape poverty in the last 15 years. BFS is excited to continue this work in East Central Indiana, and have been working hard to support single parent families through the Covid-19 crisis. Currently, they're working on some programs to keep kids active and healthy, and to encourage exercise and safe (distanced) social contact. Thank you for supporting families in our community!

Donate via text during the Sunday service on December 6 or 13, or mail a check to the church office with "December DO" on the memo line.

Soul Matters Connection Groups

Happy December, Friends! It is with much joy that I share with you these updates about our Soul Matters Connection Groups.

As you may already know, the purpose of the Soul Matters groups is to foster connection through small group ministry. These small groups are intended to bring people together for discussions on a variety of topics for the purpose of getting to know each other better. These groups do their best work when there is a definite beginning and end to their time together.

With this in mind, it is time to enter into a new format for gathering in our Soul Matters small groups.

In January, Rev. Barbara will begin leading a group of individuals who would like the opportunity to lead small groups. Rev. Barbara will be training **Nicole Kaplan** to lead these future leaders. These potential leaders will need to commit about an hour and a half on the first Thursday of each month. January through March will be trainings on how to lead Soul Matters small groups. In April, this group of leaders will stay together in a small group of leaders while they also lead their own small group.

Anyone who is interested in leading a small group is asked to attend our first meeting of leaders on January 7th from 7:30-9 pm. If you are interested in becoming (or staying) a leader of a Soul Matters small group, you need to email Nicole at nicole.c.kaplan@gmail.com with your intention and you will be added to our list of potential leaders. Attending the meetings for the leaders is vital to leading small groups.

Anyone interested in joining or remaining in a small group can either email Nicole or fill out this interest form: <https://bit.ly/UUCMsmgroups>

We look forward to growing our small group ministry with you!

Warmly,

Rev. Barbara and Nicole

Financial Help Needed for Holiday Meals

For years our church has helped to bring dinners and breakfast to the men at the Christian Ministries' Sleeping Room during the weeks of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Due to the pandemic, this winter we are unable to physically help out, as volunteers are not permitted in the building. The managers who check the homeless men in have had to take on the additional duty of buying groceries and preparing dinner and breakfast for the men who show up each evening.

Our help is still very much needed, but it's limited to financial assistance, as Christian Ministries does not have the budget to buy groceries through the whole winter. They have asked if we can send monetary donations to help them out. Many have already sent checks (thank you!) which helped provide the men a special Thanksgiving meal, but Christmas is right around the corner.

If your financial situation allows it, consider sending a donation to Christian Ministries so they can continue to provide dinners and breakfasts to sustain the men who rely on the Sleeping Room for food and shelter.

Please make out your check out to Christian Ministries and add "Men's Shelter - from UUCM" on the memo line. Their address is 401 E. Main Street, Muncie, In 47305.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors: Memory Scrapbook

The holiday season is typically a busy one for Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors volunteers. Folks bring and serve meals during Thanksgiving and Christmas weeks at the Christian Ministries Sleeping Room. In January, to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, some volunteers work a morning shift at the Second Harvest Food Bank Warehouse, and others provide and serve a celebratory lunch at the church.

Though these activities have been suspended this year, we still want our wonderful volunteers to feel connected to their vital efforts. Right above this article, you'll see Susan Taylor's invitation to donate money to fund upcoming Sleeping Room meals. We'd also like to compile a special **volunteering memory scrapbook**. If you have a maximum 200-word story of a favorite UUCM food insecurity volunteering gig, we'd love to have you share it with us. For instance, my daughter still, with delight, recalls tossing around slightly rancid cabbage pieces one January at the Warehouse.

If you're interested, please send a story of your choice, no later than December 10, by email to Steve Chalk at srchalk66@gmail.com. If you have questions, you can email or call Steve at (765) 215-3422. We'll collect the stories in an anthology with both print and digital copies to make available before Christmas.

Building Community Through Covenant

Rev. Barbara Coeyman (continued from page 1)

Universalist Association, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, recently wrote about the centrality of UU values during these curious times we live in:

***The way that Unitarian Universalists
are living our values
is my greatest source of hope at this moment.***

Even as a covenant expresses our best intentions for how we strive to be in relationship with others, being human, sometimes it is hard --- perhaps downright impossible --- to live fully according to our highest aspirations. Darn it all, but sometimes we go astray, we mess up, we fall away from the path we committed to in our covenant, perhaps through no cause of our own. The beauty of covenant is that even when we fall away from the path, covenants can be repaired. When we are in covenant with others, we not only can but must call one another back in to the path of right relations, grounded on our common values.

Unitarian Universalists' immediate ancestors in covenant were seventeenth-century pilgrims, who fled Europe in part to get away from dogmatic religion. We often quote our UU colonial ancestors in one of their most common covenant statements: 'Love is the spirit of this church.' In turn, our colonial foremothers and forefathers knew their religious ancestors: they understood how covenant came from ancient prophets like Micah and Isaiah, as defined in ancient Hebrew scripture. We modern UUs have developed intentional practices of covenant: we have reawakened connections with multiple generations of our religious ancestors.

A covenant is not a policy. Policies prescribe processes, procedures, and habits, usually about matters of material interest. Certainly policies are essential for a well-run congregation. But covenants are not about right/wrong procedure: instead covenants are about trust. Each party in a covenant promises to trust the other, especially trust those who think and act differently. Covenants nurture

relationships. They help us look at life from the perspective of the other. Covenants include responsibility to hold one another accountable. UU ministers are in covenant together: it is my responsibility to let a colleague know if I see behaviors which go against professional guidelines. I am obliged to support my colleagues to stay on the path defined by the guidelines of the UU Ministers Association and I hope they help me should I lose sight of boundaries and best practices for ministry. To me covenant is the only way to be together in a faith tradition grounded in diversity. I recently engaged with the Board and several other leaders of UUCM in a Start-Up Workshop which was, in effect, a covenanting conversation for how we will walk together in transitioning ministry this year (see more about the Start-Up elsewhere in this Unigram.)

If in the past you were associated with creedal religion, think on differences with Unitarian Universalism. In creedal faith, each worship service probably included recitation of a creed, signaling commitment to uniform beliefs. In such a system, lack of allegiance or different viewpoints could mean dismissal from the group. If only through self-selection. If prior to joining UUCM, you did not have the experience of church-going, I expect there are parallels in your secular life: perhaps in a work environment or an extended family, where you have to be careful what you say, or you'll find yourself on the outs with the dominant culture?

Lest my message in this Unigram is not obvious, let me say it again: covenants are central to this liberal faith of Unitarian Universalism. I call you --- in you small groups, committees, and activities, as well as in all-congregation work --- to create covenant statements which articulate how you want to be joined by common values. I can help guide any of your groups through the process, as you wish. As I cautioned previously, it's also important to stay alert to implicit covenants: unvoiced habits that define

(continued on page 9)

Building Community Through Covenant

Rev. Barbara Coeyman (continued from page 8)

who's in and who's out, that act more like dogma than covenant. When we walk together in true covenant, persons with dissenting views get to remain in the circle: dismissal is not a consequence of dissent.

There are four basics for creating a covenant: 1) A covenant is written by the persons under that covenant, not delivered by some outside "authority." I don't write the covenant of this congregation: you the congregants do. 2) A covenant is a living document, readily available and easily repeated. 3) A covenant should be read often, as at the beginning of every meeting of the group which wrote the covenant, to remind us of its meaning. 4) A covenant is always open to editing and re-revising.

On Sunday, December 6, we will hold the second Transition Forum of this interim ministry to discuss a UUCM All-Church Covenant. I will explain / review again the process of creating a covenant and invite congregants, in small-group breakouts, to begin the conversation about values which are important to this congregation. After the New Year, in another Transition Forum, we will begin the earnest work of writing the UUCM all-church covenant. Please note that on December 6, I will offer the Transition Forum in two time slots: one, immediately after the worship service, for 45 minutes; and second, from 8:00 – 8:45 p.m., for persons not available to attend immediately after the service. You may choose which session to attend. Zoom details will follow in UUCM eBlast.

See you in Virtual Church!

Rev. Barbara

Start Up Workshop

(continued from page 5)

Toward the end of the workshop, Rev. Barbara was similarly given space to present her covenant for the content and scope of her interim ministry and how she schedules her time. Relationships are ever-changing, as the congregation's relationship with Rev. Barbara and her covenant for interim ministry will be, but this Start-up earned its namesake in helping define ourselves to each other as individuals to now walk forth in our journey together.

Yours in communal service,

Benjamin Strack, President-Elect



work week. I know I have wondered how a parish minister actually defines a "work week," since most don't "clock in and clock out" and there is little predictability of their schedules from week to week.

I also want to report to everyone the high regard I gained for Rev. Sharon Dittmer; her skill and training reflect well on the UUA. While two church-related hours on two consecutive evenings could have been dreary---or worse---Rev. Sharon conducted an efficient workshop with a friendly and personal touch. She was genuinely interested in what we shared about our congregation. Most importantly, she was enthusiastic and positive about our future. This year UUCM has enjoyed the benefit of two members of the mid-America Regional Staff: both Rev. Dittmar in leadership of Start Up and our new primary contact, Rev. Lisa Presley.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions about the workshop.

It is an honor to be in shared ministry with all of you.

Bea Sousa, Co-chair of Worship Associates

Waiting in Stillness

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

without hope, for me, suggests waiting without clinging to some future outcome that we would like to see come to pass. Listen to Eliot's words: "Hope would be hope for the wrong thing." We cannot, I think, know exactly what to hope for; there are simply too many unknowns. But how can we hope without hoping *for* something?

I draw on Buddhism for a lot of my personal spirituality. Many Buddhists, particularly more traditional ones, would not agree with my faith in the character of the web of being (below). It isn't Love, nor is it not-Love, according to traditional Buddhism. It simply *is*. And I certainly would not claim to *know* what I hold to be true. But my intuition is that **Love** indeed is the power behind it all. This Love isn't an emotion. It isn't a feeling. It doesn't necessarily include liking or affection, nor does dislike rule it out. This Love *is* supportive, "wants" the best for all beings, and in the end, it wins out, although we cannot know what this looks like. It's faith, not knowledge. It's my nontheistic take on "a loving God is ultimately in charge."

What might it mean to wait in **faith**? This points me to what is probably the cardinal article of my own theology. There is a web of being that holds and embraces us all. It is endless in both time and space, extending forward and back infinitely. We cannot fall out of it, nor can we be expelled from it. It holds all of us—those whom I know, those whom I do not and never will, my ancestors and my descendants. Those I hold dear, and, yes, those I do not particularly like. All beings. Without exception. In some mysterious way, this infinite web can hold within itself COVID as well.

"But the faith and the love and the hope are all in the waiting." There are many enigmatic aspects to Eliot's poetry, and this is certainly one of them. "Abiding" is sometimes used as a synonym for waiting. It also can mean "dwelling." What this suggests to me is that we are called to truly be in the present moment. We are called to *dwell* where we

find ourselves. We're called to be open to whatever is in the present moment; right now, this is what is. As difficult as it is, sometimes waiting is the only thing we can do. We do whatever is within our capacity to do, and then we *wait*.

Eliot then cautions us, "you are not yet ready for thought." Many of us are good at over-thinking things. We UUs tend to be an intelligent bunch, and we're accustomed to using our intelligence to solve problems. But there are problems that cannot be solved. There are mysteries that are destined to remain mysteries, which I believe is a good thing (though that's a different column). Too much or too hasty thinking can lead us to foreclosing on options.

"The darkness shall be the light, and the stillness the dancing." To the extent that we can maintain the attitudes suggested in the first several lines of the quotation, we come to understand deeply that the polarities that seem to pull us in different directions are in fact paradoxes.

We can hold the tension of opposites and allow it to be what it is. We don't need to fall into the trap of "either-or." We can allow mysteries to be mysteries and paradoxes to be paradoxes. We can fully embrace the present while at the same time looking toward a *different* future. We can acknowledge the past and accept the present while working vigorously for a *better* future. May it be so among us.

Rev. Julia



A gentle reminder from Pastoral Care:

It seems natural for many of us to want to communicate news about those we care about to others we care about. Among us, I trust this arises from caring and concern, rather than being "gossip." We need to keep the importance of confidentiality in mind, however. In particular, information about someone's COVID status is confidential. We do not tell another about a third person's status. The same principle applies to health information in general. That information is theirs, only, to share as they see fit. As a dear friend and former chaplaincy colleague of mine often said, "that's not our story to tell."

December 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 – see page 3 for December schedule	Sundays	
Worship Service	Sundays	10:45 am
Youth Group- see page 4 for December schedule	Sundays	
Stewardship Committee	Tuesdays	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

December Meetings via Zoom

Check with committee chairs or church office for Zoom links

Worship Associates	Wednesday	Dec 2	7:30 pm
Finance Committee	Saturday	Dec 5	10:30 am
Transition Forum	Sunday	Dec 6	12:30 pm or 8:00 pm
COVID Task Force	Monday	Dec 7	5:30 pm
Transition Team	Monday	Dec 7	7:30 pm
Pastoral Associates	Tuesday	Dec 8	4:00 pm
Circles of Trust Reading Group	Thursday	Dec 10	1:00 pm or 7:30 pm
UU Book Club	Thursday	Dec 10	7:00 pm
Circles of Trust Sampler	Monday	Dec 14	1:00 pm or 7:30 pm
Program Council	Wednesday	Dec 16	6:30 pm
Virtual Caroling	Tuesday	Dec 22	6:30 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Thursday	Dec 24	7:00 pm

Wheel of Life

Rodney Richard, who with his wife **Jan** was a member of UUCM, died on October 8th at his home in Yorktown. A celebration of Rod’s life will take place at a later date.

Howard Schroeder died November 17th. Howard, with his wife **Judy**, was a long-time member of UUCM. No services are planned at this time.

If you have a major life event you’d like the church community to be aware of, please submit it to uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org and note “Wheel of Life” in the subject line.

Work that Matters

Would you like to be of great service? Our church is seeking a board member for the treasurer position. Primary responsibilities include overseeing the church budget, monthly reporting to the board and finance committee, and presenting at the budget and congregational meetings. Interested candidates must be members of the UU Church of Muncie. Please contact Caroline Sullivan at cmsull42@gmail.com with any interest, inquiries, or a more complete

Holiday Office Hours

Although our building remains closed, I’m still in the office during regular hours each week and available by phone or email. Hours and contact info are listed on the back of this newsletter.

The office will close for holiday break on Christmas Eve and will reopen Monday, January 4, 2021. Weekly eBlasts will be in your inbox on December 23 and 30, due to the holidays. Please submit all publicity requests by noon on Monday, December 21.

I hope you are able to find some joy and peace. Be safe and well. I miss you all!

~Christie

UUCM Staff & Leadership

Staff

Rev. Dr. Barbara Coeyman, Interim Minister
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Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister
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Nadine Tringali, Director of Religious Education
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Dr. James Helton, Director of Music
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Nicole Kaplan, Director of Youth Programming
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Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 4:00 pm | Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie

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