



# the UNIGRAM

## Small Group Ministry

*Rev. Dr. Barbara Coeyman, Interim Minister*

This month I want to talk about Small Group Ministry: its meaning and origins, its practices and goals; and two Small Group Ministry offerings here at UUCM in the coming church year.

### General Description

The purpose of Small Group Ministry (SGM) appears in its name: this is a method of “ministry” in small groups of people, generally from six to ten. SGM is practiced in many denominations. For example, many of my minister colleagues in the interfaith Interim Ministry Network serve churches with SGM programs. The practice has been around for several decades. One reason for creating this practice was for congregants in mega-churches to have a means of getting to know and trust a few people intimately, outside of the herd-effect of Sunday morning worship. Smaller congregations also benefit from building a few personal relationships at a time.

Many Unitarian Universalist congregations have SGM programs. UUs did not invent the practice, but in fact some of the first “hits” from googling the term lead to UU websites. For example, the UU Small Group Ministry

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## The Magic of Imagination

*Rev. Dr. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister*

January seems an especially appropriate time to reflect on imagination. This is perhaps even more true of *this* January. Many of us experience the start of the New Year as a time of new beginning, of starting fresh. Sometimes it’s close to home and personal—start that exercise program, start looking for a job that better suits us, seek help for an addiction or dependency, ask that special someone to share the rest of their lives with us. These are not at all small things. They are transformative, life changing.

I’ve always been intrigued by photographs and paintings that depict a path that disappears into something I cannot see. When I’m out walking, I’ll

usually stop to take a photo in those places where the path ahead of me does a disappearing act. The sense of openness, of possibility, and especially of mystery always catches my attention. I have far too many photographs of paths!

But this New Year feels somehow “bigger,” more momentous. As if it were painted against the backdrop of a larger canvas. And indeed, there is a lot at stake.

Many of us, I expect, have shared the emotion of an emergency room physician who, after receiving the COVID vaccine, said, “I didn’t just get a vaccination; I got a shot of hope.” Even if we ourselves haven’t yet been able to receive the vaccine, the hope, the imagination, is there. Several people recounted to

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## Sunday Mornings at Our (Virtual) Church in the Woods

January Theme :: Imagination

Online Service at 10:45 am <https://bit.ly/UUCMSundayService>

**January 10 – “What If Roe Were Overturned?” Rev. Coeyman**

On January 22, 1973 the US Supreme Court declared that women have a fundamental right to choose whether or not to continue a pregnancy. Alan, in the past several years there has been consistent chipping away at reproductive rights. Our UU values call us to take a stand to keep reproductive justice in the hands and hearts of women, not lawmakers. Let’s imagine how women’s lives would be significantly altered were Roe to be overturned, or were we to lose other social justice advocacy which is core to Unitarian Universalist identity. I will include memories of my tenure as chaplain of Planned Parenthood of Austin several years ago.

***After the service, 11:45 – 12:45, attend a Transition Forum for collaborative work on an All-Congregation Covenant. The Forum will be repeated Sunday evening, 7 – 8 pm.***

**January 17 – “Recognizing All That Martin Was” Rev. Coeyman**

On this weekend when we honor Martin Luther King for all he did to advance racial justice, let us also consider that there are many facets, many stories which make up the total of King’s legacy. We have a tendency – rightly so – to create “heroes” or “saints” of those who have made monumental contributions to our lives. But is a “heroic” or “saintly” image the total of any given human being? Is any human being one dimensional? How do we reconcile diverse features to assess a complete image of another person? How do we recognize integrity?

**January 24 – “Imagination, Transcendence, and Meaning” Bob Clegg**

When UUs say to each other, “Keep the faith,” what do we really mean? Is there a role for “faith” in Unitarian Universalism? Is there some definition of faith that Unitarian Universalists might agree on? Is imagination useful, or even required, to have faith? If so, does that imagination invalidate the reality or usefulness of such faith? In this deep midwinter, let us pause to consider the value of the practice of faith in our lives.

Bob Clegg is a Unitarian Universalist layperson and aspiring minister who serves as executive director of Justice Jobs, a free employment office in Frederick, MD. Bob is a former scientist who holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry. Several years ago, he earned an M.Div. from Wesley Theological Seminary, where Rev. Barbara Coeyman was his professor for UU History. Bob and his wife Connie live in New Market, MD, with their cat, Lilly, who makes all the important decisions.

**January 31 – “The Heart’s Song” Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer**

We’ve all probably had the experience: Our minds come up with a perfectly rational, reasonable idea, all the details laid out in good order...but our hearts just can’t get into it. It’s flat, dull, gray. But when our imagination takes hold, our hearts are right there, singing. What is it about imagination that has this magical effect? We’ll close out our January theme by exploring some of the twists and turns of imagination.

Rev. Julia is the Affiliated Community Minister at UUCM. Her ministry involves pastoral care and writing.

### Religious Education for Children & Youth

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

**January 9 (Saturday)** – RE Outdoor Gathering at UUCM (all ages), 1:30-2:30pm

**January 10** – No RE classes

**January 17** – Story Time with Nadine (all ages welcome) at 10:00am

**January 24** – Social Action, finger knit scarves for the YWCA (all ages) at 10:00am

**January 31** – Story Time with Nadine (all ages welcome) at 10:00am

### 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

Our next Scavenger Hunt theme will be **Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement** in 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 Scavenger Hunts, please let me know.

### New RE programming!

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

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

### January 24 - Social Action Sunday

This month our Social Action is to create **finger knit scarves for the YWCA**. Here is a link for beginner learners <https://bit.ly/3hJufbS> using loops yarn. I will have two skeins of loops yarn in the bin outside the RE door for each child or youth that would like to create a scarf for the YWCA. It takes about 1.5 skeins to create a scarf. If you have not already notified me that your child or youth would like to participate, **please let me know by Friday, January 15**, so that I can purchase the yarn and have it available for pickup in a bin outside the RE door during the week prior to our Social Action Sunday.

### Soul Matters Soulful Home

I hope our families are enjoying the Soul Matters **Soulful Home** subscription! **The theme for January is Imagination**. 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**

## January Youth Events

*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>

Passcode UUCm#1859

### Special Dates

January 10 - Youth Group will meet from 1:30-3 outside and masked at church. We will check in and then have games that we can play while socially distanced. Bring a chair and wear lots of layers.

### Labyrinth

The labyrinth lines in the back parking lot of church are still going strong. Consider taking some time to slow down and listen while walking the singular path in and out of the labyrinth. I saw a buck watching me while I was out there the other day! As school starts back up and our lives get more (remain) hectic, taking 15 minutes to clear your mind can be extremely beneficial to your health and well-being. Be sure to bundle and mask up.

### January Family Activity

This month, our family activity is a photo scavenger hunt. Families will be receiving a document with a list of 30 things to photograph. Families can submit as many or as few photos as they want. Each family team will receive points for their submitted photos: one point for each photo, two points for photos containing team members, and bonus points for creativity.

If you do not have a device you can take out and about to take photos, simply let me know and a disposable camera will be provided for you.

- A prize for the team that submits their photos the fastest.
- A prize for the team with the most creative photos.
- A prize for the team with the silliest photos.
- A prize for the team with the most points

Winning family teams will be announced in next month's Unigram and prizes will be delivered the first week of January. More detailed instructions have been sent out via email. Let me know if you have any questions.

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

**Nicole**

## Splinters from the Board

*Emily Wornell, President*



I'm a goal setter. I always have been. Currently I have a list of 5 lifetime goals that shape and focus my 5-year, 3-year, and 1-year goals and my 6-month and 1-month goals, as well as my weekly and daily goals. Seriously. *Goal setter*. One of my favorite activities this time of year is getting snuggly in a warm blanket, drinking some hot cider, and taking the time to review the past year while making updates to my goals. I haven't yet this year, however. I mean, it's on my list of goals to complete this month (of course it is!), but the month is quickly coming to an end and haven't even started. It makes sense, given the difficulty of the previous 9 months and my utter failure to meet the vast majority of the goals I set this time last year, but I've been struggling with how to make this almost sacred activity happen this year. I started writing this column as a distraction, actually, and wouldn't ya know, I read and heard the words I needed at this precise moment!

I was trying spark some sort of inspiration or, at the very least, focus, so I read the small group Soul

Matters packet for January. The focus of January is *imagination*, the magic of which, the packet author says, "lies in the way it can reshape reality ... [but] imagination isn't just a force that drives us forward toward a more perfect future, it also pulls the sacred into our impoverished present." My goal setting has always been focused on dreaming about a more perfect future – a more perfect me, a more perfect job, a more perfect community, a more perfect world. At this time of the year, I'm very rarely focused on the mystery and sacredness in the imperfect, mundaneness of today. These words were the reminder I needed – the reminder to be attentive to today, to be present, to seek the sacred. Maybe it's a reminder you need as well.

As we move into this new year, our church community will undoubtedly be faced with new challenges and difficulties; how we transition back to face-to-face meetings while ensuring continued safety for our community is one that looms large in my mind. We'll also face new opportunities and joys. Some of these things we can plan for, others we can't, but it's my hope that we are able to come to all of this "new" with a sense of imagination – both in creating a beautiful, shared vision of a more perfect future, but also in finding the mystery and sacredness in the normalcy and mundanity of today.

In loving service,

*Emily*

### 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](mailto:cmsull42@gmail.com)

with any interest, inquiries, or a more complete

*Listen To The Mustn'ts  
Listen to Mustn'ts, child,  
listen to the Don'ts.  
Listen to the Shouldn'ts,  
the Impossible's, the Won'ts.  
Listen to the Never Haves,  
then listen close to me.  
Anything can happen, child,  
Anything can be.  
~Shel Silverstein*

## **STEWARDSHIP 2021-2022**

### **★ CARRY THE LIGHT ★**



In 1859 our founders started this spiritual home, envisioning growth possibilities. Our “church in the woods” was built in the 1960s for the times and for potential expansion. Today members and friends undertake a wide assortment of activities to keep our church bustling!

***“It always seems impossible, until it is done” ~ Nelson Mandela***

The 2020 year has been difficult for many. Let us look forward in 2021 with renewed hope, love, and commitment to the many possibilities ahead. Though our building has been closed, the need for programming, services, outreach, and maintenance continue.

#### ***Carry the Light***

As the annual Stewardship campaign begins, we encourage each of you to choose a path to “Carry Your Light” and to set your individual financial promise.

Being a member/friend of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie, please reflect on these questions when you consider your individual financial pledge: a) when do you feel inspired; b) how are you challenged; and c) how do you feel cared about?

#### ***How will you “Carry the Light”?***

Every pledge and every gift is important. The Stewardship goal for 2021-22 has been set at \$290,000. Goals could be met with an 8% increase in giving and total pledging of \$290,000.

Consider your financial pledge to UUMC: can you increase your pledge by 8%? If you give \$500/year, can you give \$3.33 more each month? If you give \$1000/year, can you give \$6.66 more each month?

As we prepare to reopen, we must consider additional programming opportunities to serve the spiritual needs of both children and adults. The act of reopening the church will provide us with an incredible opportunity to reconnect with our members, friends, and visitors. This year is an important time in our church and we must budget for it. Therefore, your financial promise this year is of an utmost importance as we reopen.

#### **Mark Your Calendar for these Virtual Stewardship Events**

January:

- Watch for mail with your pledge form
- Check out eBlasts for more Stewardship announcements

February:

- 14** – Official Kick-off Sunday
- 20** – Pandemic Parking Lot Pledging (we hope)
- 21** – Celebration Sunday: Reflections / Music / Pledging

*In Peace and Gratitude,*

***Holly Hanauer, Bea Sousa, Kelsey Brasel, Margaret Reeder, Katie Frederick***  
***Stewardship Committee***

## January Dedicated Offering: Keeping the Dream Alive

In honor of Martin Luther King Day, our January dedicated offering goes to the MLK Dream Team.

Founded in 2003, the purpose of the MLK Dream Team is to stimulate, promote and foster harmonious relationships among all people; to provide a venue for candid dialogue; to develop and sponsor community activities and educational programs for youth and adults; to promote and facilitate services for those in need through a network of organizations; to dispel racial stereotypes and intolerance; and to be an activist for non-violent social change.

Among the activities of the Dream Team are hosting the National Day of Prayer, the Black History Month Kickoff Event every February, sponsorship of the Freedom Bus (a mobile exhibit on local civil rights history), supporting local voter registration drives, sponsorship of the Walk of Fame in Heekin Park (highlighting people and organizations in Delaware County by breaking down racial barriers), and scholarships and awards for outstanding young people.

You can get involved by attending the MLK Dream Team's monthly meetings. These are held from 8 – 9 am on the 4th Thursday of each month (no meeting in July or in December) via Zoom. We welcome community members who share our passion for spreading Dr. King's message and who want to help us promote and safeguard civil rights. Donations are also welcomed to help support a wide variety of projects. Please contact MLKDT Secretary Susan Fisher for the meeting links. [sfisher@munpl.org](mailto:sfisher@munpl.org).

You can donate via text-to-give during the service on January 10 or 17, or mail your gift to the church. Please make your check out to **UUCM** and note **MLK DO** on the memo line. Thank you for your generosity!

### MLK Day of Service

Our biggest volunteer day of the year is usually Martin Luther King Jr Day in January when we gather at the Second Harvest Foodbank Warehouse and work together, elbow-to-elbow, on whatever project they need help with. This year is different, for sure, but Second Harvest could still use our help that day.

Those of us who feel able are welcome to register through their online Volunteer Management System (<https://givepul.se/vrh0na>) for a 2 or 3-hour shift in the warehouse. Second Harvest is taking all the precautions they can to keep volunteers safe, but those in at-risk groups for COVID should weigh the risks on their own. Please also note that they have to limit volunteers to those 16 and older.

Links to register for MLK Day, January 18, 2021:

- Morning shift (9:30am – 12:30pm): <https://www.givepulse.com/event/215695>
- Afternoon shift (2:30 – 4:30 pm): <https://www.givepulse.com/event/215721>

Only 20 volunteers are allowed to register for each shift. But it would be great if a bunch of able-bodied UUCM folks registered and turned up this day. It'll be different without kids helping out, and we won't be able to visit in the same way. But Second Harvest needs all the help they can get. And as UUs, we should step up and help as we're able. Thanks!

## In the Interim: Notes from the Transition Team

*Jerry McKean, Chairperson*

As our Interim Minister, **Rev. Barbara** is here to guide us in addressing the five focus points of interim ministry: claiming and honoring our past; recognizing our unique identity; clarifying the leadership roles of ministers, staff, and lay leaders; using the resources of our UU region and the UUA; and “coming to possess a renewed vision and strong stewardship, prepared for new growth and new professional leadership, ready to embrace the future.” In short, Rev. Barbara will help prepare us for self-reflection and self-governance moving forward.

One of the ways in which UUCM is working through the tasks of an interim congregation is by the appointment of a Transition Team. In an essay, Rev. Judith Walker Riggs describes congregations in transition as journeying for a time in “a different country. The Transition Team, she writes, can serve as “travel guides for the expedition.” To that end, the Transition Team will give the Interim Minister insight into “the congregation’s culture and circumstances,” working with the Interim on engaging the congregation in interim tasks, and serving as “both a planning group and a progress monitor” (Walker Riggs). Since much of our congregation is familiar with the collegiate environment, one might compare us to academic advisors. We seek to help members define, understand, and navigate the infrastructure of the church. This will work to ensure members find and prepare for roles they wish to fill in our shared future.

At this time, the Team is working with Rev. Barbara and the Board on assisting the congregation in developing a congregational covenant, or social contract. This shared understanding and trust in how we will interact, will be rooted in our shared values. This is the foundation to the completion of our transitional goals and our continued journey together (see Rev. Barbara’s article in the December Unigram and her December 6 sermon for more on the congregational covenant).

UUCM’s transition team consists of **Jerry McKean** (Chairperson), **Ben Ewing**, **Katie Frederick**, **Eleanor Trawick**, and **Cindy Turner**. Please contact any of us with questions, suggestions, and concerns.

## If You Want a Pastoral Conversation...

Everyone in our congregation—not just Rev. Barbara and me—is part of the ministry of this church. We are all privileged to serve the whole in whatever ways we can. We’re called to use our gifts and talents for the good of the whole. That’s what we mean when we talk about “shared ministry.”

One of the special gifts Rev. Barbara brings to us is her understanding of church systems, how they work and how they don’t work, and her passion for helping them work better. In order to allow her to concentrate on that, we’ve designated me to be the lead person for pastoral care. As Rev. Barbara pointed out as well, I know people in our congregation better than she does. I work with Rev. Barbara and our capable and well-trained team of lay Pastoral Associates to meet the congregation’s pastoral care needs.

Sharing both the joys and the concerns of the congregation is one of the privileges of doing pastoral care. If you seek pastoral or spiritual care around an issue in your life, or if you simply need a safe, listening ear or want to share a joy, call Rev. Julia (phone listed in UUCM directory). I can talk with you, or I may suggest one of our Pastoral Associates whose life experience indicates that they would be able to be of assistance. With all of us working from home now, I’m generally available to take calls, and I do check my voice mail. You may also email me at [Julia@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:Julia@uuchurchmuncie.org). I prefer not to take calls after 5:00 in the afternoon or on Sundays. Of course, in the event of an emergency or crisis, I’m available at any time.

Watch this space in future *Unigrams* for additional information on pastoral care at UUCM. If you have a question about pastoral care that you would like to see addressed in this space, please email me.

**Rev. Julia**

## Small Group Ministry

**Rev. Barbara Coeyman** (continued from page 1)

Network, a membership group open to all, provides resources, conversation, and connections with other SGM participants. My first training in SGM was in the late 1990s, when the practice also came to be identified as “covenant groups.”

The website of the UU Small Group Ministry Network defines SGM like this: “Small group ministry is intentional small groups that deepen and expand the ministry of a congregation. Two key focuses are *intimacy*, or building community and deepening relationships, and *ultimacy*, or the opportunity for deeper spiritual exploration and search for meaning. Small group ministry is also called covenant group ministry, because the members in a group make an intentional commitment to one another.... At the heart of healthy congregations and life/world changing ministries we find 1) strong relationships, 2) engagement with meaningful issues, 3) leadership/leadership development, and 4) inspired action. Small group ministry contains all four of these elements.”

Most Small Groups are organized around a theme or focus. Some are intentional theme programs such as the two we will offer at UUCM, described below. Some Small Groups are organized by what I’ll call “identity” in congregational life, such as new members, parents of young children, congregants with interest in a particular artform, etc. One core feature is the quality of “ministry:” that is, the building of connections which demonstrate care for individuals and the welfare of the whole. Groups which meet regularly without a particular deepening agenda generally are not considered as SGM. To that, a commitment to a group covenant as well as regular attendance are central to strengthening group intimacy. Programs are intentionally managed by identified professional or lay leadership, who oversee enrollment, scheduling, and more. Participants know the tenure of the program they are signing up for: many UU programs run for a year, at the end of which period

groups are re-assembled so that participants have a chance to build deep relationships with other members of a congregation. In principle, no one is turned away from participating in a group: there is no “bar” that must be met. Generally, groups meet monthly for an hour or two. And yes, this ministry is transferable to online.

### Small Group Ministry at UUCM

Here at UUCM we will offer two different programs of SGM through summer 2021. You have heard about these before. Some of you already participate in one or both, but let’s continue to explain the contents and goals of each. I hope every reader of this Unigram will consider getting involved at some point. Big picture: “Circles of Trust” will be offered in a four-session series, January through April. New enrollment for “Soul Matters” group will be activated in May or June, so to be up and running through the summer. Both programs will be online via Zoom. Please contact [christie@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:christie@uuchurchmuncie.org) if you would like mentoring on use of Zoom for this group activity.

“Circles of Trust” is a spiritual deepening program based on the writing of Parker Palmer and developed by the Center for Courage and Renewal ([www.couragerenewal.org](http://www.couragerenewal.org)). By definition this is not a religious program but draws on practices from Quaker meeting. The premise of Parker Palmer’s work is that, while an “authentic self” was born in each of us, as we go through life, we may lose a sense of who we are. We live “divided lives,” pulled in many directions from that core we strive to be. The “Circles of Trust” practice restores wholeness. Directed first at individual, personal wholeness, as we practice open, honest, compassionate communications, we strengthen community through more authentic relationships with others in the community. As a credentialed Facilitator in this program, I have been offering “Circles of Trust” in my interim ministries for several years. Especially during congregational change, this program restores trust if trust has been broken, and strengthens trust which is already present. After twenty years of existence, there are “Circles of Trust” Facilitators around the world, and the practice is used in many disciplines and

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## Small Group Ministry

**Rev. Barbara Coeyman** (continued from page 8)

professions, including religious life, medicine, and teaching.

A “Circle of Trust” gathering can be anywhere from an hour to several days in duration. Here at UUCM I will offer two-hour sessions, once a month, with a choice of two different days of the week and times of the day. See below for specific dates and times. I would hope for a commitment to regular attendance, but every session will be open to newcomers to the practice.

Sitting in a circle embodies the equality among participants, including the Facilitator. A circle is grounded in what are called “Touchstones:” agreements for how we will be together. An important Touchstone is confidentiality. During a “Circle of Trust,” we come together in different combinations: as a whole group, in individual reflection, and in in-depth conversations with two or three others. Our reflections and conversations are stimulated by what are called “Third Things,” readings and other objects such as art or nature which inspire conversation within the group. I will offer a particular curriculum written by CCR Facilitators called *Geography of Grace*, which calls on locations in the natural world – mountains, sea, night sky – as inspiration for spiritual deepening.

“Soul Matters” is a Small Group Ministry program created and staffed by the Unitarian Universalist Association. It resembles “Circles of Trust” in some of its practices, but its organization, leadership, and content are different. “Soul Matters” is the UUA rendering of “theme-based ministry:” that is, a method of organizing congregational life around a different theme each month, on which many of the programs of the congregation are based. This method renders an integral quality to congregational life. Here at UUCM there are currently three Soul Matters groups, and we support the monthly theme in worship and religious education. Additionally, because several hundred UU congregations use “Soul Matters,” connections across congregations are strengthened. Participants in the meetings

receive a monthly packet, chock full of readings, quotes, questions for conversation, and more. Each meeting begins with confidential check-in.

Facilitation of groups is usually led by lay members of the congregation, while a staff member or lay leader serves as overall coordinator of the program. The national Soul Matters program also offer monthly mentoring so leaders can share additional resources with each other and talk about engaging the themes in various ministries. I will oversee the program and UUCM member Nicole Kaplan will serve as coordinator of Facilitators and group membership. See below for more from Nicole on upcoming training for Facilitators.

### Dates of Upcoming Events

“Circles of Trust”

January 14, 7 – 9 pm; January 25, 1 – 3 pm  
February 18, 7 – 9 pm; February 22, 1 – 3 pm  
March 18, 7 – 9 pm; March 22, 1 – 3 pm  
April 15, 7 – 9 pm, April 19, 1 – 3 pm

To register, send an email to [christie@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:christie@uuchurchmuncie.org) with “Circles of Trust” in the heading. Indicate which time slot you want to register for. Any questions, feel free to contact me at [barbara@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:barbara@uuchurchmuncie.org).

“Soul Matters” Facilitator Training – Thursdays:  
February 4, March 4, April 1: 7:30 – 9 pm  
Any questions, feel free to contact **Nicole Kaplan** at [nicole.c.kaplan@gmail.com](mailto:nicole.c.kaplan@gmail.com)

See you in Virtual Church!

**Rev. Barbara**



## The Magic of Imagination

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

me weeping with joy as they watched the first trucks roll away from the Pfizer plant, or the early vaccinations of front-line health care workers. The vaccine has enabled people to imagine a life beyond COVID, not going back to what life pre-pandemic was, but something that is sustainable beyond lockdowns and foregone holiday celebrations. At the same time, the changes we've experienced have invited us to imagine an even better life. I recall news stories from New York City during the lockdown, people looking out at their usually car-clogged streets and thinking about how they could be made more pedestrian friendly. New Yorkers have begun to put that into action in some places.

Arundhati Roy writes in *The Pandemic is a Portal*: "Our minds are still racing back and forth, longing for a return to "normality," trying to stitch our future to our past and refusing to acknowledge the rupture. But the rupture exists... Nothing could be worse than a return to normality. Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next." Perhaps this will be a part of the legacy of the pandemic, along with all the pain and anguish it has brought.

President-elect Joseph Biden's recent speech encouraged a new vision that enables us to imagine a national life beyond the Trump vision of despotism, a vision of democracy restored, a restoration of the very "soul of America." He calls us to imagine a life beyond the racial, ideological, economic, political, ethnic and gender chasms that divide us. We are nowhere near there yet, and there will be a lot of hard work and conflict before we get there. But something in our national imagination has been ignited.

Rev. Barbara will continue introducing us to Circles of Trust this month. Circles of Trust will allow us an imaginative, participative glimpse into how we can

be together as a congregation, and as a congregation with our new settled minister when that time comes. It also gives us a way of imagining a new way of being as individuals within the community of individuals.

Our rational minds can scheme and plan, consider alternatives, weigh various courses of action. But it's imagination that makes our hearts sing, that draws us inexplicably toward one or another alternative. We can create a quite reasonable plan in our mind, all the details neatly laid out, but our hearts just can't get on board. Then when something fires up our imagination, our hearts are right there.

Unitarian Universalist minister Rev. Gretchen Haley, a minister at the Fort Collins, Colorado, Foothills Unitarian Church, writes:

It starts here  
 In this moment  
 In this breath  
 You feel rising  
 In your chest  
 This beat building between us  
 The healing, the hunger, the hope  
 The courage, the calling, the commitment  
 The drawing out  
 of a new day  
 It begins now  
 In the imagination  
 In this story we weave  
 Together...

What is engaging *your* imagination as we head into 2021? What are you holding in your heart with hope and imagination? Where are you finding courage and commitment? What makes your heart sing with possibility?

**Rev. Julia**

# January 2021 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 January schedule	Sundays	
Worship Service	Sundays	10:45 am
Youth Group- see page 3 for January schedule	Sundays	
Stewardship Committee	Fridays	11:00 am
Choir Gathering	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays	8:30 pm
Board of Trustees	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	6:30 pm

## January Meetings via Zoom

Check with committee chairs or church office for Zoom links

Transition Team	Monday	Jan 4	7:30 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	Jan 6	7:30 pm
RE Committee	Sunday	Jan 10	9:00 am
Transition Forum	Sunday	Jan 10	11:45 pm or 8:00 pm
Nominating Committee	Tuesday	Jan 12	3:30 pm
Pastoral Associates	Tuesday	Jan 12	4:00 pm
Circles of Trust	Thursday	Jan 14	7:00 pm
UU Book Club	Thursday	Jan 14	7:00 pm
Church Office Closed – MLK Day	Monday	Jan 18	
Program Council	Wednesday	Jan 20	7:00 pm
Committee on Ministry	Thursday	Jan 21	7:00 pm
Circles of Trust	Monday	Jan 25	1:00 pm

## Videos & Podcasts

**Reversing Inequality & Rebuilding Local Economies Post-Pandemic**  
*On imagining a new economy*  
<https://bit.ly/2Xp8rcv>

**Unfinished Portraits**  
*On using imagination to honor the loss of black lives.*  
<http://bit.ly/35lt6T5>

**Imagining the Future of UUism**  
<https://bit.ly/3bnEBgw>  
 As part of the First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor 150th anniversary year, UU leaders from around the country gathered to imagine the future of the UU movement and how UU congregations can boldly go into the dawning future.

~\*~

From our Soul Matters materials for January’s theme of *Imagination*.

## Gratitude

**Grace Reef** sends her thanks to the many church members and friends who sent her birthday cards. Grace celebrated 98 years on December 1, 2020

*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

**Whitney Gordon**, whose wife **Hilda Gordon** was a long-time member of UUCM, died November 27, 2020, in Tempe, AZ. Whit wished to be remembered to his many long-time friends at UUCM. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

*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.*

# UUCM Staff & Leadership

## Staff

**Rev. Dr. Barbara Coeyman, Interim Minister**  
[barbara@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:barbara@uuchurchmuncie.org)

**Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister**  
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**Nadine Tringali, Director of Religious Education**  
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**Christie Williams, Office Administrator**  
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**Dr. James Helton, Director of Music**  
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**Nicole Kaplan, Coordinator of Youth Programming**  
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## Board of Trustees

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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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