



the UNIGRAM

Checking in on Five Focus Points of Interim Ministry

Rev. Dr. Barbara Coeyman, Interim Minister

The nature of my column this month is both review and update. Here five months into this transitioning ministry which UUCM is pursuing, let's review the grounding of Interim work: the "Five Focus Points of Interim Ministry." I do so to emphasize the importance of keeping these Focus Points in your awareness as we strive for transformation in this faith community. I also review these Focus Points because they form the basis of the upcoming mid-year Interim Appraisal to be submitted to the Transitions Office of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Regular appraisal and assessment of how any ministry is going is important, so to affirm continuation of what is going well and to do any course corrections as needed. During an interim ministry the Transitions Office oversees this process, so to keep informed about the state of congregational life. We use an Appraisal Form created by the Transitions Office (available online), based on the Five Focus Points. The first Appraisal is due at roughly the six-month point in the ministry. An interim Appraisal differs from a review of a settled ministry. In an Interim Appraisal, we review the shared ministries of the congregation, to include

(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>3</u>
<u>Splinters from the Board</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Stewardship 2021-22</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Dedicated Offering</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Transition Team</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Pastoral Care</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Calendar</u>	<u>11</u>

Weaving Beloved Community from Imperfect Threads

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

(continued on page 10)

Sunday Mornings at Our (Virtual) Church in the Woods

February Theme :: Beloved Community

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

February 7 – “The Upswing: Building Beloved Community” Rev. Coeyman

In his recent collection of essays, turning point, UU Rev. Fredric Muir examines how Unitarian Universalism’s history of individualism and anti-authoritarianism has impeded the building of genuine Beloved Community. Rev. Muir parallels sociologist Robert Putnam’s reflections that American culture of the past century has gone from focus on the individual, to community, and back to the individual: the “I-We-I” curve. Both writers have faith that we can move forward with a greater sense of community over individualism. How can we all support this re-building of Beloved Community?

February 14 – “Stewardship as Spiritual Practice” Rev. Coeyman

“Stewardship” means “the managing of something entrusted to our care.” Because each of us is a steward of our free church, stewardship means all that you give to support UUCL: not only financially, but also of your time and your talents. Looking at stewardship as a spiritual practice may offer some new perspective on your participation in UUCL’s upcoming stewardship drive. Stewardship is an important way we live out the mission of liberal faith.

February 21 – Celebration Sunday

Celebration Sunday will feature special music “live” from the sanctuary by the Reeder family and Jim Helton, as well as videos from members/friends sharing their time and talent, and reflections by three members. After hearing the results of the pledge drive, we will participate from our homes in a ceremony “carrying the light” into the world. (Have a candle and match handy.) Rev. Barbara concludes the service with a brief homily.

February 28 – Rev. Coeyman

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.

February 7 – PreK-4th grade class 10-10:30 am/5th-12th grade class 12:30-1:15 pm

February 13 (Saturday) – RE Outdoor Gathering at UUCM (all ages), 1:30-2:30 pm

February 14 – No RE classes

February 21 – Story Time with Nadine (all ages welcome) at 10:00 am

February 28 – Social Action, no-sew blankets for the Animal Rescue Fund (all ages welcome) at 10-10:30 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

RE programming

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. Please note, that in place of a 2nd Sunday RE class, we are holding a 2nd Saturday outdoor gathering.

- **Sunday, February 7 – Soul Matters Anti-Racism Curriculum:** PreK-4th grade class 10-10:30 am w/Elsbeth Fritz and 5th-12th grade class 12:30-1:15 pm w/Denise Ewing.
- **Saturday, February 13 – RE Outdoor Gathering at UUCM** (all ages), 1:30-2:30 pm
- **Sunday, February 21 – Story Time** with Nadine (all ages welcome) at 10:00 am
- **Sunday, February 28 – Social Action** with Susan Taylor, “No-Sew blankets” for the Animal Rescue Fund, 10-10:30 am

For the Scavenger Hunt and Outdoor Gatherings at UUCM, wearing masks and physically distancing six feet is required.

Family Activity – Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement Scavenger Hunt

Our Scavenger Hunt for the month of February and March is on the theme **Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement**. Pick up a C.R. Heroes Scavenger sheet and pencil from the tub by the RE door to mark off each Civil Rights Hero as you find them. **Please leave the rocks where you find them for another group to discover.** When you complete the hunt, please send me an email and let me know how many you found!

Social Action w/Susan Taylor – Sunday, February 28

For our February Social Action, we are making “no sew blankets” for the Animal Rescue Fund. If you would like to make a blanket to donate, **please let me know by February 10**, and I will have blanket fabric available for you to pick up on Saturday, February 13, at our Outdoor Gathering from 1:30-2:30pm at UUCM. If you cannot pick up on the 13th, let me know, and I can leave fabric for you in a bin labeled *Social Action* outside the RE door.

(continued on page 9)

February 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

February 14 - 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. We hope to have our new fire pit ready to test out! Registration requested (not mandatory) so that I know how many treat bags to bring. Bring a chair and wear lots of layers.

February Family Activity

This month we are making cards for Muncie OUTreach’s Community Card Program.

“With COVID-19 rising, more and more people find themselves isolated and lonely. Here at OUTreach we specifically worry about our youth who do not feel safe to be openly LGBTQIA+ in their homes. They have lost their ability to see their peers and be in affirming spaces. This can lead to increases in isolation, depression, and, in some cases, self-harm. We also worry about our affirming families, donors, and community members who have been stricken with COVID-19 or who have been isolating to stay safe. Receiving mail (that is not a bill) can brighten your day and lets you know someone is thinking of you. It is an offer of solidarity and support to someone who may be lacking in these trying times. And it isn’t just about the recipients – senders benefit from this project too! Writing can be very therapeutic, often even more so when you take away the pressure of writing to someone you know. When you send cards via us, you don’t have to worry about seeming too cheesy or not funny enough! It always feels good to spread kindness, and this is a very simple and accessible way to do just that.”

So, what are we doing?

(continued on page 9)



Splinters from the Board

Emily Wornell, President

I'm taking a better-late-than-never approach to the board retreat during my tenure as president. Usually this event is held in the fall or near the beginning of a new church year, and it gives the board space and time for three things (according to the UUA): getting to know each other, setting norms of the board, and creating goals for the year. As with everything in both our church and personal lives this year, we knew it would have to look different. So rather than a weekend retreat held over zoom, which frankly sounds dreadful regardless of how much you like fellow participants, we've broken up the intention of this retreat into more manageable, 2-hour chunks spread out over the year. Our first retreat time was Sunday, January 24 – better late than never!

During this meeting, we spent the bulk of our time talking about the *role* of the board in our church. I know that I don't just speak for myself when I say that there is a lot of confusion regarding what the board is/should be responsible for versus what is/should be managed by the minister or other lay leaders. This clarification is incredibly important as we continue to develop and deepen the concept of "shared ministry" in our community. Unfortunately, our governing documents (by-laws and policies and procedures) not only don't offer the clarification needed, but they are at times contradictory or muddle the waters in other ways. What does it actually mean, for example, for the board to "oversee the total life of the church (Article X, section 3, item 2)?" And is it appropriate or in accordance with current UUA best practice for the *board* to "evaluate the performance of the minister (Article X, section 3, item 4)" or "fill committee vacancies (Article X, section 3, item 5)?"

Beyond the need for clarification, we also discussed whether or not it was reasonable, or wise, to expect a board of six people (all with executive positions) and the minister to fulfill all the duties outlined in

the policies and procedures manual, the need for opportunities for board members to deepen our relationships together and with the congregation, and whether or not the current meeting schedule and process fits our needs.

Finally, we had some important conversations regarding some sticky language that is or has been used in our church. Concepts and terms like "triangulation," "covenant," and "pastoral vs. program church" have become sticking points and/or points of contention in our community. We spent some time unpacking one that is particularly important to me (the joys of being the one who sets the agenda): triangulation. Regardless of where or why these terms have gained their "stickiness," it's important to understand the actual *reason* they have become contentious in our community – the concept, emotion, or disagreement that they reflect – so that we can understand and deal with our real conflicts in a healthy way.

All of these conversations are on-going, and I looking forward to continuing to share the insights and questions that we continue to grapple with in these board retreats. Our next retreat (still being scheduled for the end of February/beginning of March) will cover leadership development amongst the board, creating an onboarding process (which, remarkably, is completely absent current), and developing a board covenant. As always, please feel free to reach out to me or other board members or come to our monthly board meetings (2nd Wednesday of every month) with questions or concerns. We are *your* board and we always welcome your feedback and participation.

In loving service,

Emily

STEWARDSHIP 2021-22 ★ CARRY THE LIGHT



Our annual Stewardship pledge drive looks much different from last year with the fun, food and Paul McCartney dropping in! What hasn't changed is our excitement about this important part of our community, and how much we love to celebrate the generosity of our community! Members, friends, snowbirds, and those curious about UUCM can all attend. Continue reading this Unigram.

You don't want to miss these special services!

Welcome to Stewardship and the Pandemic Parking Lot Pledging (PPLP)

Mark Your Calendars and join us:

1. Late January: Watch for your pledge form in the mail
2. February 7: worship service / reflections
3. February 14: Kick off worship service / reflections / sermon / kids art
4. **February 20, Saturday: 11 am-2 pm, PPLP Drive through** at UUCM back parking lot. a) Drive up, leave your pledge on a table, b) Open your car trunk to receive a goody bag with home treats and items for Sunday Celebration. (Need to arrange a personal exchange? Contact any committee member to request delivery). Wave at the Stewardship Committee!
5. **February 21, Sunday: Celebration Sunday** with special music, interactive all-congregation ceremony, member/friends pre-recorded videos of time and talent from UUCM

UUCM Kids Carry The Light

Our youngest members bring a precious insight to this congregation. On February 14th they will answer the question "why does our UUCM church need to raise money?" Please share a picture of your youngster with a sign or drawing that represents their answer. Photos will be shown in a slide show on February 14th and displayed on decorated yard signs on February 20 at PPLP. Share your image by February 1st!! CONTACT **Margaret Reeder** for information, to share your image and to pick-up yards signs to decorate! margaret.reeder@yahoo.com or 312.343.0251.

Carry The Light

As Stewardship campaign begins, we encourage each of you to choose a path to "Carry Your Light" and set your individual financial promise. As a member/friend of the UUCM, while you consider your individual pledge, reflect on when you feel inspired, challenged and 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. This goal could be met with an increase of 8% on every pledge. Consider your pledge to UUCM: **will 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?

Reopening the church provides us with an incredible opportunity to reconnect with our members, friends, and visitors. This is an important time in our church and we must budget for it. Your financial promise this year is of utmost importance. We will **Carry the Light** with you!

In Peace and Gratitude,

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

February Dedicated Offering: Muncie OUTreach

Thank you for making Muncie OUTreach February's designated offering. As most of you know, we are the only LGBTQ support service in Delaware County. Our organization has had to make many changes due to covid, but we still offer several support groups on Zoom – Youth Group, Gayme Night, Finding SPIRIT (adult transgender support), and Raising Rainbows (parent support). This winter we have started a Community Card Program which has had a great response. You can find information about it here:

<https://muncieoutreach.org/community-card>.

Last year was horrid. The pandemic and political strife brought a lot of isolation, financial issues, and mental health problems for everyone. Nonprofits have been hit hard with needs rising and financial resources low. At OUTreach we have had the struggle of reaching our youth who are in non-affirming homes. We worry about their safety and their mental health.

Right now, in Indiana, our legislators have sponsored numerous bills to harm LGBTQ youth - specifically transgender youth. Their efforts show us exactly why Muncie OUTreach is needed.

- SB 224 would prohibit licensed health professional's treatments intended to "change, reinforce, or affirm a minor's gender identity when the identity is inconsistent with the minor's biological sex." It would also outlaw efforts to "change, reinforce, or affirm a minor's perception of the minor's own sexual attraction or sexual behavior."
- HB 1456 makes it a Class B misdemeanor if you knowingly enter a bathroom that is inconsistent with your "biological sex"
- SB 289 wants to prohibit same sex partners having both their names on their child's birth certificate.
- SB32 co-authored by our own Representative Sue Errington and Senator J.D. Ford bans conversion therapy on anyone under the age of 18. While this is wonderful – at the same time it's incredibly sad that it is needed.

As with all of you, we are finding hope with a new administration and a Covid-19 vaccine. Having some type of "normal" seems to be on the horizon. We are planning to once again have in person meetings and be able to see all of the youth we have missed this past year. We are also ready to roll up our sleeves and work on not only creating safe spaces and providing resources that build confidence in our local LGBTQ youth, but also help educate those who want to do harm and discriminate in the name of religious freedom.

You can donate via text-to-give during the service on February 7 or 14, or mail your gift to the church. Please make your check out to **UUCM** and note **OUTreach** on the memo line. Thank you for your generosity!

WE HAVE SO MUCH WORK TO DO. Will you join us?

www.muncieoutreach.org muncieoutreach@gmail.com

Community is first of all a quality of the heart. It grows from the spiritual knowledge that we are alive not for ourselves but for one another. Community is the fruit of our capacity to make the interests of others more important than our own. The question, therefore, is not "How can we make community?" but, "How can we develop and nurture giving hearts?"

~Henri Nouwen

In the Interim: Notes from the Transition Team

Eleanor Trawick

Our church has begun the process of creating a congregational covenant. The 2019 UUA document “A Comprehensive Guide to Congregational Covenants” describes this as “a written agreement among individual community members promising to behave in certain ways.” The authors continue, “By creating shared expectations around the behaviors we want to cultivate, we come closer to creating the beloved community.”

I like the idea of the congregational covenant. As a non-theist, I feel that it strongly resonates with my humanism: we’re not behaving in a certain way because a deity or a book tells us to, but rather because we human beings have decided that we want to be in a particular relation with each other. It’s a social contract.

When Markie and I (finally) got married, we, like most couples, spoke vows to each other. We didn’t do it because we thought that, without the vows, we were going to behave terribly. Instead, we believed that in articulating publicly a high ideal for ourselves we were honoring our commitment to each other. A congregational covenant works the same way.

The timetable for our UUCM covenant, as Rev. Barbara explained in a January eBlast, will be something like the following. The Board of Trustees and the Transition Team will analyze the many suggestions that everybody made at the January 10 forum, or submitted afterwards, and will identify the terms and concepts that came up the most. We (these two congregational bodies) will draft a covenant statement and present it to the congregation by the end of February. The congregation will discuss and tweak the proposed statement over several weeks and—we hope—will enthusiastically adopt a covenant by mid-April.

I hope that the congregation doesn’t obsess over whether this document is a “covenant” or a “compact” or a “pledge.” Time we spend on debating the etymology and shades of meaning of various synonyms is time we won’t be spending on the *content* of our promises to each other, which is the real heart of the matter... and the more difficult conversation to have!

The Transition Team consists of **Jerry McKean** (chairperson), **Ben Ewing**, **Katie Frederick**, **Eleanor Trawick**, and **Cindy Turner**. Please contact any of us with questions, suggestions, or concerns.

Pastoral Care

All of us need the gift of deep listening. Our Pastoral Associates are available to offer that gift, as am I. Buddhist monk and social activist Thich Nhat Hanh tells us his understanding of what “deep listening” is and is not. Especially in turbulent and challenging times, we need this gift. [I’ve not changed his pronouns.]

Deep listening is the kind of listening that can help relieve the suffering of another person. You can call it compassionate listening. You listen with only one purpose: to help him or her to empty his heart. Even if he says things that are full of wrong perceptions, full of bitterness, you are still capable of continuing to listen with compassion. Because you know that listening like that, you give that person a chance to suffer less. If you want to help him to correct his perception, you wait for another time. For now, you don’t interrupt. You don’t argue. If you do, he loses his chance. You just listen with compassion and help him to suffer less. One hour like that can bring transformation and healing.

I hope all of us have had the experience of being listened to in this way; I have, and it is life-giving.

If you are not sure who might be best suited for you to speak with, please feel free to ask me for a recommendation (julia@uuchurchmuncie.org). In future issues, our Pastoral Associates will introduce themselves as part of our continuing effort to highlight pastoral care in our church. **Rev. Julia**

Five Focus Points of Interim Ministry

Rev. Barbara Coeyman (continued from page 1)

appraisal of the minister, and more important, appraisal of the congregation in supporting the transitioning recommended by the minister. Each congregation submits a two-fold Appraisal: one comes from the interim minister, the other comes from lay leadership representing the voice of the congregation. Board members Caroline Sullivan and Ben Strack, and Transition Team members Jerry McKeen and Ben Ewing will work as a team to complete this congregation's half of this process. As interim minister, I will complete my own Appraisal Form. Before sending off to the UUA, we will discuss together our two reports, not to exact changes from one or the other, instead to be transparent about our respective impression of progress during this important work of going forward.

To give you a sense of this appraisal, let me review here the Five Focus Points of Interim Ministry (**in bold**) and after each, offer a brief sample of the type of input I will include in my report. I am well aware that being online, this is a transitioning time like no other any of us has experienced before.

A congregation in interim ministry is called to:

1. **Claiming and honoring its past and engaging and honoring its griefs and conflicts:** As a UU historian, I believe that a congregation's knowing its history is central to transitioning work. I have frequently offered UUCM my mantra: "Know your history, but don't live in your history." Largely because of being online, I have not yet led UUCM in creating a History Wall, a project recommended for the start of an interim period, done in-person on paper through community input and community sharing of contents. Perhaps UUCM's History Wall can go online?--- stay tuned.
2. **Recognizing its unique identity and its strengths, needs, and challenges:** I have worked with staff and leadership groups (in particular, Board, Transition Team,

Committee on Ministries, Worship Associates) to affirm what's working well and where UUCM can focus on areas of growth.

3. **Clarifying the appropriate leadership roles of minister(s), church staff, and lay leaders and navigating the shifts in leadership that may accompany times of transition:** As staff supervisor, I have led staff in conversations about their job descriptions. As mentor to Board and Committee on Ministries, I have seen their good work of assessing the roster of committees, their functions, the need to delete some and enhance others, etc.
4. **Making appropriate use of District, UUA, and other outside resources:** The staff of MidAmerica Region of the UUA has supported UUCM during interim search and a "Start-Up" workshop in early November. I continue to remind all about UUA resources available for support of their particular areas of leadership. I expect UUCM's engagement with resources in the wider Muncie community will expand as the pandemic eases.
5. **Proudly coming into possession of a renewed vision and strong stewardship, prepared for new growth and new professional leadership, ready to embrace the future with anticipation and zest.** I am mighty impressed by UUCM's commitment to stewardship, engagement of the stewardship committee, and participation of this community in fund-raisers, especially during a time of covid. I am sure there is growing "zest" among all in the community, just waiting to bust out in hands-on connections when pandemic restrictions are past.

Here I've named staff and a few of the leadership teams I work with most closely. What are you doing,

(continued on page 9)

Five Focus Points of Interim Ministry

Rev. Barbara Coeyman (continued from page 8)

each in your small or grand way, to contribute to the forward work of UUCM during this time of important transformation?

To the theme of transformation, I invite everyone in this community to consider attending the “Circles of Trust” program I am facilitating through April. “Circles of Trust” invite us to new habits of deep listening and compassionate communications. I am a credentialed Facilitator with CCR and have used COT to great effectiveness in recent interim ministries. For this series, I am offering *Geography of Grace*, a curriculum which draws on places in nature for spiritual growth and deepening of trust. Remaining sessions are as follows:

Session Two: “The Sea and Release,” February 18, 7 – 9 pm; repeated February 22, 1 – 3 pm

Session Three: “Desert Places,” March 18, 7 – 9 pm; repeated March 22, 1 – 3 pm

Session Four: “The Night Sky,” April 15, 7 – 9 pm, repeated April 19, 1 – 3 pm

To register send an email to christie@uuchurchmuncie.org with “Circles of Trust” in the heading. For questions, contact me at barbara@uuchurchmuncie.org. Also see weekly eBlasts for more details about this program.

See you in Virtual Church!

Rev. Barbara

Religious Education Corner

Nadine Tringali (continued from page 3)

Soul Matters Soulful Home

I hope our families are enjoying the Soul Matters *Soulful Home* subscription! **The theme for February is Beloved Community.** 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

Youth Group

Nicole Kaplan (continued from page 3)

We’re making Valentine’s cards to send to OUTreach! Spend an afternoon as a family creating and sending cheer. Cards can contain stickers, pictures, affirmations, happy letters, or anything else you can think of to brighten someone’s day! Just remember that cards have to be flat enough to send through the mail. More information can be found on Muncie OUTreach’s website, <https://muncieoutreach.org/community-card-program/>

Deliver your cards to the Youth Group bin at the back door of church by February 10th, so our cards can be delivered in time for Valentines.

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

Nicole

Wheel of Life

Wathena Mayfield, teacher, wife, mother, quilter, and avid reader died peacefully in her sleep on Monday, January 4th. Wathena and her husband Miller joined the church in 1955 when they moved to Muncie. The fact that Muncie had a strong UU church was the deciding factor in their moving here. A member of 65 years, she will be missed.

No service is planned at this time.

Dr. Ronald Burton died in the loving arms of his family on January 5. Ron and his wife Mona were members of UUCM for nearly 50 years. They moved to Pennsylvania in 2019 to be near their children.

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.



Weaving Beloved Community

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

imagination, is there. Several people recounted to 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

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

February Meetings & Events

Check with committee chairs or church office for Zoom links

Transition Team	Monday	Feb 1	7:30 pm
Fundraising Committee	Tuesday	Feb 2	7:00 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	Feb 3	7:30 pm
Soul Matters Small Group Leaders	Thursday	Feb 4	7:30 pm
RE Committee	Sunday	Feb 7	9:00 am
Pastoral Associates	Tuesday	Feb 9	4:00 pm
UU Book Club	Thursday	Feb 11	7:00 pm
RE Outdoor Gathering	Saturday	Feb 13	1:30 pm
Program Council	Wednesday	Feb 17	7:00 pm
Circles of Trust: Session 2	Thursday	Feb 18	7:00 pm
Committee on Ministry	Thursday	Feb 18	7:00 pm
Pandemic Parking Lot Pledging (PPLP)	Saturday	Feb 20	11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Circles of Trust: Session 2	Monday	Feb 22	1:00 pm

Gratitude

It may have been a difficult decision for **Emily Wornell**, UUCM President, and **Markie Oliver** to do something else on the morning of the Inauguration on January 20. We want to thank them for being two of the four participants in the regular twice-a-month Black Lives Matter vigils in front of Muncie City Hall. After all, persistent and peaceful vigils, rallies, and protests played a significant role in bringing about the wonderful transformation of our federal government that was made official at the Inauguration.

~Wayne Meyer

If you have a gratitude you'd like to submit for the next Unigram, please send it to uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org, subject line "Sharing Gratitude."

Beloved community is formed not by the eradication of difference but by its affirmation, by each of us claiming the identities and cultural legacies that shape who we are and how we live in the world.

bell hooks, "Killing Rage: Ending Racism"

STEWARDSHIP 2021-22
* CARRY THE LIGHT



**Don't forget PPLP
February 20!**

UUCM Staff & Leadership

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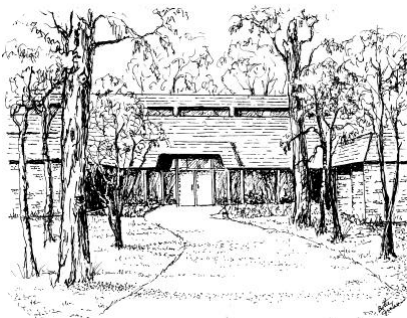
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Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie

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