



the UNIGRAM

Ego Stories and Soul Stories

Rev. Dr. Barbara Coeyman, Interim Minister

The worship and Soul Matters theme for May is “Story.” Story: a sequence of connected events which have a shape: usually a beginning, middle, and end, to record, perhaps to explain, this experience of being alive. Most stories have characters and settings. Stories can be real or a product of the imagination. Stories may include tensions which resolve, or not, by the end. Some stories are ongoing, changing in our interpretations of them as our lenses on life change. Stories connect us. Storytelling is popular these days: consider a radio program, “The Moth,” in which each hour segment features four or five amateur storytellers. There is power in stories.

Here I want to offer a particular rendering or defining of story: to contrast Ego Stories and Soul Stories. This delineation of story is included in the “Circles of Trust” practice which I bring to this congregation, as well as to my minister colleagues during the annual UU interim retreat going on in the same days as I write this column. I will leave it for you to read below the details in the delineation of Ego and Soul stories, as articulated by “Circles of Trust” founders Marcy Jackson and Parker Palmer. Briefly, Ego stories present concrete information, organized and sequential, left-brain

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Red Rocks and Twisted Trees

Rev. Dr. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

It was May of 2002, roughly six months after my late husband Mike’s death. He and I had finally reached a place in our lives that we had begun to do some of the traveling we had hoped to do. Those plans had been brutally cut short. I knew, however, that I wanted to continue to travel, although I’d never done so as a solo traveler except for rather frequent jaunts to professional meetings. I also knew very well that if I didn’t do so soon, I’d lose my nerve when it came to solo travel.

I began searching the internet for possibilities. I was looking for something that was all-inclusive, easy. One spot that caught my attention was Pura Vida, a “wellness resort” in Costa Rica. The more I thought

about that, the less I felt like getting into the complexities of international travel, which I had no experience with at the time. I settled on the Red Rocks Resort near Saint George, Utah. I’d seen their ads in *Yoga Journal*. They offered daily hiking, yoga and other wellness activities, and almost indescribable scenery. And I’d never been to Utah.

I made plans to drive to my daughter’s in Ohio a couple of days before and fly out of what was then Port Columbus (now John Glenn), so that she could take me to the airport and see me off, as well as welcome me back. I needed that security, that bookending in the familiar. And off I went. First shock: landing at the Las Vegas, Nevada, airport to catch the bus to Saint George, and being

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Sunday Mornings at Our (Virtual) Church in the Woods

May Theme :: Story

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

May 2 – “The Power of Story” Rev. Coeyman

Stories can be powerful means of communication: to open the storyteller to her deepest joys and hurts, to invite the hearer to ever deeper, more active listening. Through story we can move past old brokenness and hurts to new places of joy and hope. What stories about your life journey you have told over and over? What are the stories of this congregation? What stories would you like to tell others?

May 9 – “Mother’s Day: A Day for Peace” Rev. Coeyman

Our modern celebration of Mother’s Day started as a call by Unitarian Julia Ward Howe in 1870 for Mother’s Peace Day. On this day of honoring all mothers as well as anyone who nurtured us, let us also remember to promote peace around the world for the future of our children for generations to come. Today’s service includes an online UU Flower Ceremony in celebration of springtime beauty, diversity, and community, created by Unitarian Norbert Capek in Prague in 1923.

May 16 – Annual Bridging Ceremony Rev. Coeyman

May 23 – “Celebrating Our Volunteers” Rev. Coeyman

Today we recognize the many volunteers who have participated in shared ministry to UUCM this year: leadership of committees, groups, and projects, and the all-important Religious Education teachers and students. Our congregation is a Voluntary Association, in the words of James Luther Adams. Volunteering is essential to the stewardship of this congregation.

May 30 – “Peter Mayer: Guitarist, Songwriter, Vocalist” First Unitarian South Bend

“The Church of What We Know” explores, through words and song, the story of the universe as science describes it and how UUs can help develop ways to spiritually connect with that story.

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.

May 2 – PreK-4th Grade Class 10-10:30. NO 5th-12th grade class

May 8 (Saturday) – RE Outdoor Gathering at UUCM (all ages), 1:30-2:30 pm

May 9 – No RE classes

May 16 – Story Time with Nadine (all ages welcome) at 10:00 am

May 23 – Social Action with Susan Taylor (all ages welcome) at 10-10:30am

May 30 – 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

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, May 2 – PreK-4th Grade Class** with Elsbeth, 10-10:30. **NO 5th-12th grade class**
- **Saturday, May 8 – RE Outdoor Gathering at UUCM** w/ with Denise and Nadine, 1:30-2:30pm
- **Sunday, May 16 – Story Time** with Nadine (all ages welcome) at 10:00am
- **Sunday, May 23 – Social Action** with Susan at 10:00am, catnip toys for ARF
- **Sunday, May 30 – Story Time** with Nadine (all ages welcome) at 10:00am

Social Action Sunday – May 23

Toys for ARF with Susan Taylor

For our May Social Action, we will be making catnip toys for the Animal Rescue Fund (ARF). If you would like to make catnip toys, **please let me know by May 10** (2nd Monday) and I will have a Ziplock bag for you in the RE bin with all the supplies needed on Friday, May 14. Please return your catnip toys to the RE Bin by June 11 for delivery to ARF on June 14. ARF's kitties are looking forward to playing with their new toys!

Soul Matters Soulful Home

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

April 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

Dates

May 1 & 2 - Youth Group camp out; games, nature, and our monthly anti-racism curriculum

May 9 – Mother's Day - no youth group

May 16 - Bridging Ceremony during service: please attend! Zoom at our normal time

May 23, 1 to 3 pm - Service project: painting the signs at UUCM -

May 30, 7-8:30 - Among Us on Zoom

May Family Activity – Collage

We're going to fill up another one of our giant canvases for the Youth Room and for this, we need your help. We are going to create a collage of us. Even though we couldn't spend the year together, it has been a transformative year for each of us and we will never be the same. The collage will represent how the individuals and community have grown over the last year.

Step 1.) Please capture some memories for us. Things, places, people, foods, etc., that have helped Youth and their families through the last year. Take pictures (or find them online/in magazines) of anything and everything that has had a positive impact on your life over the 2020-2021 school year.

Step 2.) Sit down together with old magazines, notebooks, or a computer (and printer). Cut out words from magazines or letters to create your own words, draw words, or type up words in fun fonts and colors. These words can be adjectives that

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Splinters from the Board

Emily Wornell, President

Just as the larger church community has been drafting a covenant together over the last few months (which we will be voting on at the May Congregational Meeting), so too has the board been working on ours. Although our year together is nearly over, we're taking the "better late than never" approach that has typified most of this last year.

- Practice active listening and deep reflection
- Show respect to each other, our positions on the board or as professional minister, and our time (both on and off the board)
- Trust our fellow board members and professional leadership, our congregation, and ourselves
- Do what we say and say what we mean

In general, the board has an incredibly positive working relationship. I consider myself blessed to have colleagues who are so dedicated to the health and wellbeing of our shared community. The existence of this covenant doesn't indicate that we are struggling to communicate or interact effectively, rather it is an indication of our desire to *continue* to do so in the face of potentially difficult situations that may arise.

The church will be voting on our church-wide covenant at the congregational meeting on May 23rd at 12:00pm, when we also will be voting on the

board positions and budget. Another thing that we'll be doing at the congregational meeting is talking about the future of ministry at UUCM. Please note, **we will NOT be voting on ministry at this meeting**, nor will we be opening the conversation to discussion. Rather, Rev. Barbara will be presenting information to the congregation regarding our options. Very briefly, those options are: hiring an interim (either Rev. Barbara or another interim) for a 3rd year of interim ministry; searching for a settled minister to start in 2023; searching for a developmental minister; some combination of these options. The board will schedule a town hall meeting at some point after the congregational meeting to open discussion regarding our options after we've all had the chance to hear and think about our options. Please stay tuned for an announcement regarding that town hall meeting.

The spring is a busy time for the church – from the amazingly successful Service Auction (thank you to the Fundraising Committee: **Denise Ewing, Mary Johnson Robey, Linda McKean, Jennifer Parks-Strack, and Malissa Tong**) – to our congregational meeting and impending town hall, keep your eyes on the eBlast and unigram for notifications of meetings and events!

In loving service,

Emily



General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend.

The UUA Board of Trustees has passed a resolution making the 2021 UUA General Assembly a **100% virtual event**. Let's reach record-breaking attendance **June 23-27, 2021!**

Please visit the UUA website for more information.

<https://www.uua.org/ga>

Ego Stories and Soul Stories

Rev. Barbara Coeyman (continued from page 1)

for the most part, declarations of safety and security. Soul stories are more from the right brain, from the spirit, the heart, not necessarily sequential, revealing vulnerability. Both types of story matter: neither is better or worse than the other. However, there are times in our lives when one is more appropriate than the other.

As you read this side-by-side comparison of Ego and Soul stories, I invite you to think on examples of your own stories which each descriptor addresses. Is the type of story you told the most appropriate for its context? More specifically, what sort of experience or balance of stories do you bring to your

presence in this religious community of UUCM? If you prefer one type of story over the other, how might you practice the other? For example, if you tend to be rational and fact-based, could you consider an activity such as the “Soul Matters” or “Circles of Trust” programs to explore more Soul. If you tend to be Soul oriented, how could inclusion of more concrete information enhance your leadership or contributions to congregational activities?

I wish you nurturing story-telling. See you in virtual church!

Rev. Barbara

Ego Stories/Soul Stories

From Marcy Jackson and Parker J. Palmer

EGO STORIES

- ◆ focus on life’s high spots when we have been successful and affirmed
- ◆ try to portray us as in control or in charge of our lives
- ◆ are often linear stories of continuity and consistency, stories that have a resolution
- ◆ are highly crafted stories that leave out important things; may ignore or falsify certain information by “spinning” the facts
- ◆ are always told in prose, and sometimes involve numbers
- ◆ are stories that do not sustain us in times of suffering
- ◆ are stories we tell at a party when someone asks, “What do you do?”

“Produce! Get results! Make money! Make friends! Make changes! Or you will die of despair!”

— Chuang Tzu

SOUL STORIES

- ◆ honor shadow as well as light, suffering as well as gladness
- ◆ are often stories of twists & turns when our best-laid plans were undone by the unexpected
- ◆ allow us to integrate the fragments with the whole
- ◆ are unafraid of change, fear, loss, failure, and shame, or mystery, passion, and ecstasy
- ◆ are sometimes told in poetry, music, or art
- ◆ are stories that we can hold onto in the hardest of times
- ◆ are the stories we want the people we love most to know; ones we are most likely to be reliving when we are awake at 3:00 AM or when we die

“Joy and sorrow aren’t two different feelings for it [soul]. It [Soul] attends to us only when the two are joined.”

— Wislawa Szymborska



We Carry the Light!

UUCM is full of generous people – thank you, thank you everyone! The 2021-2022 pledge drive is over, with \$277,194.32 raised, and 94 pledging units participating! In this difficult year, we exceeded last year's pledge drive total by almost \$7000! Many of you responded to our 8% increase challenge; you did the math, saw your numbers, and said "Yes, I can do that!" We're also grateful to all of you who attended and/or contributed time and talent to the pledge drive in various ways, including the two Sunday services and our Pandemic Parking Lot Pledging event. We didn't just raise money; we experienced and celebrated this community - inspiring *and* fun for us, and we hope for you too! Together, we carry and nurture this precious light.

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

May Dedicated Offering

Solar Panel Project at Second Harvest Food Bank

Here's a special opportunity to help Second Harvest Food Bank meet their expanded need to feed the hungry and food insecure (66,000 and still growing in their 8-county region), and help address climate change AT THE VERY SAME TIME.

1. Many people will not recover from the economic effects of the pandemic for a very long time. For example, many may never get their former jobs back. Thus, the need is expanded and long-term, too. Second Harvest is trying to serve more people than ever before and is constantly creating new ways to reach out to them.
2. Nowadays Second Harvest is receiving more and more refrigerated and frozen foods (and not many foods in cans and boxes as before), which need a whole lot more electrical energy. But if that energy comes from renewable sources such as solar, it will help mitigate what is now often called the climate **crisis**, since it really is the "existential imperative of our time," that is, a threat to the very survival of humankind and so much life on Earth. (That's what the Sixth Extinction is all about.) Second Harvest has made a good start with a 40-panel, ground-mounted solar array. With this new initiative, the Solar Panel Project, they want to at least double that size in 2021.

Second Harvest strives to be a model of bold action leading to a more compassionate, just, sustainable, and better-than-ever society. They fully deserve our generous support.

You can donate via text during the Sunday service on May 2 or May 9. Or mail a check to the church office and note "DO Solar Panel Project" on the memo line.

As the last line of that great hymn says, "LIFE calls us on!"

Youth Group

Nicole Kaplan ([continued from page 3](#))

describe our youth or words/phrases that fit well with our UU principles. Put all the words into a bag with the youth's name and bring them to the Youth Group bin by the back doors of church.

Step 3.) Take a good quality photo of your youth in front of a blank background. I'll remove the background and enlarge the photo. The photos of the youth will be the main focus of the collage with the images and words surrounding them all.

Please send all photos to me at nicole@uuchurchmuncie.org by May 30th.

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

Nicole

Red Rocks and Twisted Trees

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

immediately assailed by the din of slot machines right in the concourse!

My instincts had been right in picking the desert over the lushness and unbridled life of the tropical landscape of Costa Rica. [I would go to Pura Vida some years later.] The starkness and barrenness of the desert landscape, the way it was empty of anything but the essentials, fit my emotional and spiritual state perfectly. It was strangely comforting. I felt settled, held, like I belonged there. It's a landscape some might have found foreboding, but for me, it felt welcoming. There were several other solo women there at the time, and we shared our stories as we helped each other over the red boulders and the rock-strewn trails.

Some of us have been participating in the Circles of Trust that Rev. Barbara has offered. The overall theme is "The Geography of Grace," and the March theme was desert places. The Circles of Trust literature calls desert places "landscapes of hope and persistence." I found hope among the red rocks, and the courage to lean into my new and dreadfully changed life. While I was there, I wrote "Sister to These Red Rocks":

I'm sister to these red rocks,
Born, as are all things,
Of ancient saline seas.
Carved to resplendent shapes
And austere spaces
By wind and rain,
And the gradual disintegration of the years,
Until their sacred contours could emerge
And become a home of Soul.

I'm sister to these twisted trees,
Turned and shaped and traced
By the unseen suffering of their lives
On these red rocks.
Surviving,
Hanging on in unlikely places
Nonetheless.

The plane touched down after what was unquestionably the worst flight of my life. We had experienced continual rough turbulence that the pilot couldn't account for. The plane had shaken as though it would shake itself to pieces. The young woman seated next to me and I had held hands nearly the entire flight. When the "fasten seatbelt sign" was turned off, nearly everyone was on their feet, cheering and clapping, crying and hugging. I stepped out of the concourse and my daughter wrapped me in a huge hug. I was safe.

Rev. Julia

Pastoral Care

When we turn to a pastoral care provider—be it a minister, chaplain, or lay pastoral associate—rather than to a secular counselor or other secular professional, it's usually because we sense there is a spiritual dimension to our need. Perhaps it's a disconnect between behavior and values, between hopes and aspiration and lived reality, a disruption in loving relationships, or a sense of separation from/abandonment by whatever we experience as the ground of our lives. Pastoral care is not just for difficult or crisis times, either. We're here to share life's joys and triumphs as well. Our joys need to be witnessed as much as do our worries and griefs.

Our current Pastoral Associates are **Ron Burton, Steve Chalk, Carolyn Cooley, Liz Lowe, and Jerry McKean**. They are a crucial part of the pastoral care team responsible for providing spiritual and emotional support to members and groups within the congregation, in cooperation with Rev. Julia and Rev. Barbara. You may contact a Pastoral Associate directly (contact information in the church directory). Or you may contact Rev. Julia for a suggestion or referral.

The Pastoral Associates are available to lend a listening, empathic ear. They provide a safe space in which to tell your story. They don't try to fix, nor tell you what you "should" do. They listen and provide a sounding board as you tap into your own intuition and understanding to arrive at the answers that fit you best. Each of us has an inner guide, an inner compass, and as others listen deeply and compassionately to our stories, we can hear ourselves more clearly.

May 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	
Choir Gathering	1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays	8:30 pm
Board of Trustees	2 nd Wednesday	6:30 pm

May Meetings & Events

Check with committee chairs or church office for Zoom links

Budget Review Town Hall Meeting	Sunday	May 2	12:30 pm
Transition Team	Monday	May 3	7:30 pm
Soul Matters Small Group Leaders	Thursday	May 6	7:30 pm
RE Outdoor Gathering	Saturday	May 8	1:30 pm
Pastoral Associates	Tuesday	May 11	4:00 pm
Board of Trustees	Wednesday	May 12	6:30 pm
Program Council	Wednesday	May 19	7:00 pm
Committee on Ministry	Thursday	May 20	7:00 pm
Congregational Meeting	Sunday	May 23	12:00 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	May 26	7:30 pm

Congregational Meeting – Sunday, May 23, 12:00 pm

UUCM’s annual business congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, May 23, 2021, at 12:00 pm. This will be a virtual meeting held on Zoom. To be eligible to vote, please ensure that you are a member in good standing according the following passage from our bylaws.

Our By-laws define voting membership as follows: *Article III, Section 2. Persons who have been admitted to membership for at least thirty (30) days, who make a financial pledge to the church and make a good-faith effort to pay it, who donate their time and services, and who attend church services and activities are deemed to be voting members with all rights and privileges. Members who by reason of health have not been able to participate in church affairs and members who by reason of financial hardship have not been able to make a monetary contribution, are nonetheless viewed by the church as being members.*

Please note that a contribution of record for the 365 days preceding this meeting must have been received by the church office by Friday, May 14, to fulfill the financial contribution requirement.

Sharing Gratitude

Big thanks go out to **Robert Guillaud** for his two special Joys shared in the Chat section of our Easter Sunday service on the 4th of April, now often called “Earth Month.” 1. He and Sue have a new granddaughter named Madeline. 2. He has purchased an all-electric, no greenhouse gas emissions car (2021 Tesla Y). It’s perfect timing, because that car adds real hope for the future of that baby – and of all young people on Earth. I’m guessing that it was humility that prevented Robert from adding that he had already spent tens of thousands of dollars for solar panels on his roof. What a model – of action, of course, not just encouraging words - for all of us to emulate!

~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.”

UUCM Staff & Leadership

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