



the UNIGRAM

Dismantling White Supremacy

Rev. Dr. Barbara Coeyman, Interim Minister

As UUCM moves forward in transitioning ministry, there are three important projects to focus on this year. You have already begun deep conversations about one, “Ministry Going Forward.” Another project which will begin in a few weeks is the “History Timeline.” Often one of the first activities of an interim period, during pandemic, here at UUCM and in many other interim congregations, we have delayed this project which, in many settings, is better presented in an actual display rather than in digital format. An offshoot of a history Timeline is for UUCM to explore writing and publishing its congregational history.

A third important project is to focus on is the advancement of Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression, and Multi-Culturalism (ARAOMC), through conversations, study groups, and outreach. This is perhaps the single most critical topic in the Unitarian Universalist Association right now, brought home all the more in 2020 in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Floyd’s murder occurred just before the publication of a report entitled “Widening the Circle of Concern” from the Commission on Institutional Change (COIC): (<https://www.uuabookstore.org/Widening-the-Circle-of-Concern-P18686.aspx>.) This report calls UUs to a robust

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A Pandemic Poem-Prayer

by *Phyllis Cole-Dai*,

from phylliscoledai.com, July 02, 2020

Phyllis Cole-Dai is a writer and poet. On her 58th birthday last year, she wrote 58 one-line pandemic prayers and shaped them into a poem. You can listen to Phyllis read the poem [here](#) or download it [here](#). I would suggest listening to it; for me, there is something very special about hearing a poet read their own work. [March 26, 2020, © 2020 Phyllis Cole-Dai, used with permission]. Despite its length, I thought it worth calling to the attention of the congregation. It speaks so clearly to the qualities we need to cultivate as we examine our relationships with one another and discern what it means to walk together in covenant.

One way we might consider using this is to read one line a day and reflect on it as that day unfolds for us. Or we might pick a line that feels especially relevant on a certain day. Use it however it speaks to you.

- May we all survive to another birthday.
- May we greet the sun each morning and rejoice in being alive.
- May we breathe the miracle of fresh air.
- May we honor every moment as a chance to begin anew.
- May we root our faith in richer soil than worry.
- May we let separation knit us close.
- May we see faces besides our own in the mirror.
- May we recognize all people as kin.

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Sunday Mornings at Our (Virtual) Church in the Woods

The theme for October is Cultivating Relationships

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

October 3 – “Outside In-Gathering” Rev. Coeyman

During this time of closure for in-person worship at UUCM, let us come together outdoors as a gathered community for our fall “In-Gathering” service, which marks the return and rejoining with one another as a community. Our multi-generational “In-Gathering” will include the traditional Water Ceremony combined with a Flower Ceremony, and will be held at Canan Commons in downtown Muncie, during our usual worship time 10:45 to noon. See the Oct. 1 eBlast for more details and a link to view the broadcast online.

October 10 – “Revisiting Covenant, Cultivating Accountability” Rev. Coeyman

Our relationships with one another – in congregations, in the work place, in families, in life – are shaped by covenants: promises for how we will walk and live together. It’s one thing to compose covenants, as UUCM engaged in very fruitful “covenanting” last spring leading to the current All-Church Covenant. However covenants are only as strong as our accountability for maintaining them. How can this congregation live into accountability for its new covenant and so for stronger relationships here at UUCM?

October 17 – “Birdwatching as a Spiritual Practice” Cassandra Montenegro

What is it about picking up a pair of binoculars, lifting your eyes up to a far-off fluttering, or attuning your ears to a familiar chirp, that transports so many of us to spaces of peace? Whether you’re in the woods with friend, on the seashore with family, or looking out the window of your apartment, take a joyful journey into how birding and birdwatching can restore connection and confidence in our communities and ourselves.

October 24 – “Cultivating Relationships through Wisdom from the Trees” Rev. Coeyman

Many of us may have deep visual appreciation for trees, of all shapes and sizes and smells. We may even have spiritual experiences from our connections with trees. New investigations about how trees communicate with one another, such as by Suzanne Simard in Finding the Mother Tree, goes beyond aesthetic benefits to what trees can teach us about interpersonal relationships. Consider what you can learn about cultivating relationships from your favorite tree!

October 31 – “Remembering All Souls” Rev. Coeyman

This time of the year is marked by several holidays acknowledging the passage of time. Day of the Dead is a Mexican holiday honoring departed loved ones. All Saints Day honors church leaders and All Souls Day focuses on “regular” folks. Halloween brings out the child in each of us. In this service, let us come together to recall and celebrate relationships, to include a photo ceremony of remembrance of departed “Souls” of congregants. Don’t forget the traditional UUCM Halloween Parade at the end of the service.

Religious Education for Children & Youth

Outdoor RE Program – Saturdays 10:30-noon

In the month of October, we will continue to meet on Saturdays for our **RE Outdoor Gatherings**. Please bring your own water bottle and snack. We will have an activity and plenty of free time to play on the playground. Masking and distancing is required.

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

In the month of October, we will continue to meet on Saturdays for our **RE Outdoor Gatherings from 10:30-noon**. Please bring your own water bottle and snack. We will have an activity and plenty of free time to play on the playground.

On **Saturday, October 30**, we will be holding two Outdoor Gatherings at UUCM: **Halloween Fun at 10:30** with pumpkin decorating and games and **Trunk or Treat from 2-4pm**. Trunk or Treat will bring joy to our children and youth this Halloween season in a safe environment. Vehicles do not have to be decorated to participate, but the best decorated vehicles will receive prizes. It can be just one person decorating a vehicle or you could work with a family, a committee, or a small group. Nicole will be sending out a form with more details and suggestions for goodies as we want to be mindful of allergies, food restrictions, and safe items for our youngest trick or treaters.

On Sunday, **October 31**, we will be holding our annual **Halloween Parade** in virtual form at the end of the service! Please send your pictures to nadine@uuchurchmuncie.org by *Tuesday, October 26*.

I hope you have been enjoying the **Soulful Home** subscription that we send out at the beginning of each month! The theme for October is **Cultivating Relationships**. It is about creating memorable and amazing moments as you explore the monthly theme with your family!

Nadine

Youth Events

Nicole Kaplan, Coordinator of Youth Programming

When Youth Group meets on Zoom, we are in Zoom #2 <https://zoom.us/j/5150188364> Passcode UUCm#1859

October Birthdays

Finn - 11th
Adam - 30th
Indigo - 31st

Trunk-or-Treating

The entire congregation is invited to participate in our Halloween event this year. For more information and to sign up as a vehicle, trick-or-treater, or both, please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/yPRXpH7zXwxynPSZ7>

Regional Youth Gatherings

Youth from UU churches around our "Heartland" region (MI, IN, OH, KY) are now gathering on the third Sunday of each month to play games. On September 19th, we played Drawful from Jackbox games and the youth who joined us are very excited to do it again.

We will meet Sunday, October 17th from 4-5:30 in UUCM's Sunday Service space. Keep an eye out for reminders and the link.

This is a great opportunity to make connections with new friends who we hope to someday get to meet in person at Cons and other events.

Dates

Oct 3 - In-Gathering - 10:45-12ish at Canan Commons
Oct 4 - Blessing of the Animals - 5:30-6:30
Oct 10 - FALL BREAK - no Youth Group
Oct 16 - Movie Night at UUCM - 7-10 pm
Oct 17 - Regional Game Day (Zoom) - 4-5:30
Oct 24 - Curriculum Sunday (Virtue Ethics) - 1:30-3 at UUCM
Oct 30 - Trunk-or-Treating - 2-4

Caregiver Gathering

For our gathering this month, you are encouraged to participate in a Coming Back Together conversation. Sign up at <https://forms.gle/UxQBxrcApRrddMSe6>

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

Nicole



Splinters from the Board

Benjamin Strack, President

We don't yet know a date for returning to in person services in our wonderful sanctuary, but we know that moment is inching closer and closer. I continue to be most thankful for **Susan Bossung** and our COVID taskforce continuing to guide and support the board. I think we had all really expected over the summer than we would make a return to in-person services in September or October, but the Delta variant ruined those plans. I share your disappointment in continuing to wait, just as I share your concern over the vast number of cases in our community and in area hospitals.

The good news is that we continue to take action toward reuniting. **Rev. Barbara** is now bringing together our volunteers and staff for a Worship Taskforce, which will coordinate worship associates, technology, music, childcare, and responsibilities like greeters and ushers to prepare ourselves for this new normal when the time is right. The board has approved purchases of air purifiers (more on this at a future time) that will live throughout the building in order to properly circulate and clean the air. We move closer and closer to this moment, but there is a very important role we are not prepared to fill, and that is the welcoming of new folks to our community.

This is where YOU (yes, you) come in.

I think serving on a membership committee is one of the more difficult ways to volunteer within a congregation. In discussions with Rev. Barbara, she highlighted for me the three purposes for membership committees. One is to welcome visitors, educate as necessary, and journey with them through the process of joining the congregation. Two is to deepen new member relationships in their first few years so that new members turn in to long-time members. And third, to reconnect and call back to engagement long time members who may have, over time, been less visible members of our community.

And here's the greatest secret Barbara told me: No membership committee is ever going to fully engage with all three.

I served on our membership committee in my second year here in the congregation, and I'm well reminded of the frustrating work, trying to do so much but seeming to do so little. I know many in our community have similar disappointing experiences serving in that role. But here we are approaching a nexus moment, where returning to in person services with reengage long-time members, deepen newer member relationships, and welcome new faces into our building for the first time in 18 months.

We need now more than ever a group of people dedicated to welcoming and unifying our community. Will you be one of them?

In loving service,

Ben

(No really, please let me know if you'd be interested in joining our membership committee!)



We are like aspen trees – who have mistakenly thought that since we look like many trees that is the truth – but under the ground, our root system is one – we are fully alive when we are connected because we are, we were always, part of one another. ~Rev. Hilary Krivchenia

Congregational Meeting: Sunday, October 10, Noon

UUCM's fall congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, October 10, 2021, at 12:00 pm, following the Sunday Service. This will be a virtual meeting held on Zoom. The agenda is listed below.

To be eligible to vote, please ensure that you are a member in good standing according the following passage from our bylaws:

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 be received by the church office by Friday October 1 to fulfill the financial contribution requirement.

Meeting Agenda

Call to Order

1. Approval of agenda
2. Approval of Minutes from May 2021 meeting
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. HVAC Taskforce update
6. COVID Taskforce update
7. Fundraising Committee update

Adjournment

Sharing Gratitude



I received the following thank you notes as the Chair of the UUCM Caring Committee. In my eyes, you are all members of this Committee. Therefore I want to make these letters accessible to you all. ~Julie Fritz

Because of all you did, there was lasagna here, and there was Chinese food, and chicken tortilla soup, and smoked sausage, and a "Picnic Supper" that was perfect for the Reds game! There was corn and coconut soup, and fresh peach cobbler, there was salmon and strawberries, too! But better than all of that, there was Love! We were healed by that beautiful gift! Thank you, my friend! ~Jan and Ron Moore

Dear Friends,

I am the daughter of Ron + Jan Moore. Recently, even though vaccinated, both of my parents contracted COVID. It was such a shock + disappointment to them + me both!! Luckily, they managed their symptoms, but were extremely fatigued + unable to cook for themselves, let alone shop for groceries! The Caring Committee at your church blew us away over + over again, delivering meals to my parents. They were so THANKFUL for the many meals delivered including soups (chicken tortilla) salads, casseroles, breads (c cheese) + bought meals from restaurants!! It was all extremely appreciated! corn soup, lasagna, peach cobbler, stuffed tomatoes, salmon, fresh fruit+ flowers! Yummy

It's hard to find the proper words to thank you all fully + correctly. But please know my parents, my sister, and I appreciate you SO MUCH! Love has been shared + felt. We hope you know how much we value you, + would do the same in return for you. Gratefully, Heather Hodson

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."

October Dedicated Offering: Muncie Afghan Refugee Resettlement Committee (MARRC)

The recent departure of the American military from Afghanistan left thousands of Afghan supporters of the American efforts in danger. As a result, many were evacuated and are temporarily residing at military bases in the United States, including nearby Camp Atterbury. Thanks to the efforts of AWAKEN, which has assisted Afghan women and families for many years, Muncie has a history of supporting efforts to aid Afghans in need of help with health care, education, vocational training, and clean water and sanitation. This history places Muncie in position to sponsor Afghan families who are resettling in the United States.

Volunteers from several Muncie organizations, including UUCM, have come together to form the Muncie Afghan Refugee Resettlement Committee (MARRC). This Committee will help Afghani refugee families arriving at Camp Atterbury to settle in Muncie, Delaware County, and surrounding areas. Among its goals are identifying the number of refugee families to be sponsored, contacting government agencies to identify the refugees that might qualify for resettlement, raising funds to assist MARRC families, and arranging with local, state, and federal agencies to coordinate the transition of MAARC families into our community. This includes arranging for housing, education, transportation, jobs and basic necessities such as phones, appliances, and autos. The ultimate goal is to help families establish themselves to become independent, functional, and productive members of the Muncie Community.

Members of the committee have already been in contact with Camp Atterbury, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State, and the Governor's Office. Locally, the committee's efforts are supported by the City of Muncie, Ball State University, IU Health, AWAKEN and several other local churches and organizations.

This is a community-wide, intensive and extensive effort. UUCM is proud to play a part. Please be generous in your support.

You can donate via text during the Sunday service on October 10, or mail a check to the church office and note "MARRC DO" on the memo line.

Fall 2021 Mini-Bazaar

Coming to UUCM on Saturday, November 6th!

The event will be held outside utilizing tents with masks required for all attendees and volunteers. Attendance will be limited to members and friends of UUCM; no external publicity. Exact times TBA. Four booths will be showcased: **Food** (pre-packaged baked goods and frozen meals), **Plants**, **Quilt Raffle**, and **Scrip** gift cards (*a new program!*).

Keep an eye on Facebook and the eBlasts for more information. For questions about volunteering, donations, or the overall event - contact a fundraising committee member.

- Jennifer Parks-Strack, jennifer.e.parks@gmail.com
- Denise Ewing, dewing218@gmail.com
- Malissa Tong, malissa.tong@gmail.com
- Linda McKean, lwmckean@comcast.net

(And, don't worry - a weather contingency plan is in place!)

Dismantling White Supremacy

Rev. Barbara Coeyman (continued from page 1)

commitment to practicing and promoting anti-racism. Congregations are encouraged to study this report through the use of a study guide for adult education classes: https://www.uua.org/files/2020-10/widening_study_action.pdf. Stay tuned for communication as we at UUCM plan to offer the “Widening the Circle of Concern” curriculum and other conversations about Dismantling White Supremacy.

To lay groundwork for UUCM’s attention to “ARAOMC” matters, for the rest of this column, please find a very helpful summary by way of thirteen characteristics of how “white supremacy” culture is manifested in organizations and congregations. This summary was first articulated twenty years ago and yet remains relevant today. I excerpt the following from *Dismantling Racism: A Workbook for Social Change Groups*, by Kenneth Jones and Tema Okun (ChangeWork, 2001). As you read this list of characteristics of white supremacy, I invite you to ask yourself, do any of these descriptions apply to your own way of being in the world?

1. **Perfectionism:** little appreciation for the work that others are doing, more common is to identify what is wrong, and little ability to identify, name, and appreciate what is right; making a mistake is confused with being a mistake, doing wrong with being wrong
2. **A Sense of Urgency:** makes it difficult to be inclusive, think long-term, consider consequences; sacrificing potential allies for quick or highly visible results
3. **Defensiveness:** the defensiveness of people in power creates an oppressive culture and makes it difficult to raise these ideas; energy is spent making sure that feelings aren’t hurt or working around defensive people
4. **Quantity Over Quality:** things that can be measured are more highly valued than things that cannot be; discomfort with emotion and feelings; little awareness of importance of people’s need to be heard
5. **Worship of the Written Word:** if not in a memo, information doesn’t exist; only one right way; celebrates people with writing skills; lower value for other ways to share information

6. **Paternalism:** decision-making is clear to those with power and unclear to those without it; those with power think they can make decisions in the interests of those without power; those without power understand they do not have it and understand who does

7. **Either/Or Thinking:** linked to perfectionism, things are either/or, good/bad, right/wrong, with us/against us; no “both/and;” creates sense of urgency

8. **Power Hoarding:** power seen as limited, only so much to go around, little value around sharing power; those with power assume they know best interests of the organization and

9. **Fear of Open Conflict:** emphasis on being polite; people in power scared of conflict and try to run from it, blame people for raising discomfort rather than looking at issue causing the problem

10. **Individualism:** little experience or comfort working as part of a team, delegating to others; individual rather than group recognition and credit; isolation; competition over cooperation; lack of accountability

11. **Progress is Bigger, More:** observed in ways we determine success; progress defined as ability to serve more people (regardless of quality);

12. **Objectivity:** the belief that objectivity exists, that emotions are inherently destructive, irrational, and not important in decision-making; invalidating people who show emotion; ignoring or invalidating those who think other than in linear style

13. **Right to Comfort:** those with power have a right to emotional and psychological comfort; scapegoating those who cause discomfort; equating individual acts of unfairness against white people with systemic racism which daily targets people of color

I invite you to keep this list handy this year as we offer conversations and other activities devoted to making our personal and congregational life more open, inviting, and respectful of all types of diversity.

See you in Church!

Rev. Barbara

Standing in Possibility

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

May we cherish them as much as ourselves.
 May we stay home to keep them safe.
 May we nurture the body that houses our soul.
 May we have adequate shelter, food, water, medicine, and rest.
 May we share freely from our abundance.
 May we resist the temptation to hoard.
 May we ask for help without hesitation or shame.
 May we draw comfort from the company of animals, flowers, and trees.
 May we befriend the sounds of silence.
 May we welcome the intimacies of solitude.
 May we dive to the depths of our being and bring up blessings we didn't know we had.
 May we be sanctuary for one another.
 May we refuse to dwell in the blindness of denial, indifference, or contempt.
 May we tame our temper and carry no grudge.
 May we empathize even with those we dislike.
 May we gift one another with radical attention.
 May we listen to one another as if lives depend on it.
 May we speak as if our voice will be the last sound ever heard.
 May we explore how to touch without touching, how to hold without holding.
 May we not be embarrassed by tears and trembling.
 May we learn from our children the joy of unstructured time and the solace of routines.
 May we reassure our children about the monsters beneath their beds.
 May we create new rituals of togetherness.
 May we laugh from our bellies.
 May we cultivate wonder.
 May we help our society to do better than it has done.
 May we examine problems from all angles and talk straight as lines.
 May we base decisions on collective wisdom rather than contagious fear.
 May we invest our trust in those who are experts, not those who pretend.

May we value health over wealth.
 May we dedicate our daily work both to those we love and to the common good.
 May we sustain those workers whose invisible labor sustains us all.
 May we protect those who put themselves at risk to protect us.
 May we transform the impossible into the doable.
 May we inquire into the welfare of strangers.
 May we stand up for those who are scapegoated and targeted by hate.
 May we sing porch to porch until all the world is our neighbor.
 May we drop expectations of how hard or long this road will be.
 May we pace ourselves as we go.
 May we each shoulder more of the load so that nobody stumbles beneath it.
 May we prepare ourselves for the unknown.
 May we follow the light of our brightest prayers.
 May we live together into better versions of ourselves.
 May we plant the seeds of a new world in what remains of the old one.
 May we remember in the dark hours that we're not alone.
 May we let no one die forsaken, in pain, or untouched by kindness.
 May we grieve the lost, though we cannot gather.
 May we do right by their memory.
 May we not waste a minute of the precious time they should have had.
 May we love one another as we would be loved.
 May our children survive us all.

In Relationship,

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer

October 2021 UUCM Calendar

Online calendar: <http://www.uuchurchmuncie.org/members/calendar/>

Regular Weekly/Monthly Events

Check the eBlast for links to these Zoom meetings and more.

RE Outdoor Gathering	Saturdays	10:30 am - noon
Adult Discussion Group	Sundays	9:30 am
Worship Service	Sundays	10:45 am
Youth Group – see page 3 for schedule	Sundays	1:30-3:00 pm
Choir Gathering via Zoom	1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays	8:00 pm
Board of Trustees	2 nd Wednesday	6:30 pm

October Meetings & Events

Check with committee chairs or church office for Zoom links

Outside In-Gathering (see article below)	Sunday	Oct 3	10:45 am
Pet Blessing (outdoors at UUCM)	Monday	Oct 4	5:30 pm
Soul Matters Facilitators	Monday	Oct 4	7:30 pm
Worship Workshop	Saturday	Oct 9	9:00 am
Congregational Meeting (see page 5)	Sunday	Oct 10	12:30 pm
Pastoral Associates	Tuesday	Oct 12	4:00 pm
Stewardship Committee	Tuesday	Oct 12	1:00 pm
Youth Group Movie Night	Saturday	Oct 16	7:00 pm
Transition Team	Monday	Oct 18	7:00 pm
Unigram submissions due	Wednesday	Oct 20	9:00 am
Committee on Ministry	Thursday	Oct 21	7:00 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	Oct 27	7:30 pm
Trunk or Treat	Saturday	Oct 30	2-4:00 pm

Outside In-Gathering – Sunday, October 3, 10:45 am

During this time of closure for in-person worship at UUCM, let us come together outdoors as a gathered community for our fall “In-Gathering” service, which marks the return and rejoining with one another as a community. Our multi-generational “In-Gathering” will include the traditional Water Ceremony combined with a Flower Ceremony, and will be held **at Canan Commons in downtown Muncie**, during our usual worship time 10:45 to noon.

The UUCM staff along with worship and tech volunteers are working to put together a special service. Friday’s eBlast will include all the information you need for Sunday.

Check out the following details as you plan for In-Gathering:

- The service begins at 10:45 am. Please give yourself plenty of time to park and make your way to the common area in front of the stage. Friday’s eBlast will include a map highlighting parking, seating, etc.
- Bring with you: a mask, a chair, sun protection, water and a flower for the sharing ceremonies (we’ll have extra of both if you forget).
- We will not collect an offering during the service at Canan Commons. Friday’s eBlast will have details for giving to the October Dedicated Offering to benefit Muncie Afghan Refugee Resettlement Committee (MARRC).
- **If the weather doesn’t cooperate we will make an announcement Saturday evening via eBlast and Facebook.** In that case we will have a brief service via Zoom at the regular time on Sunday.

UUCM Office Schedule

Monday

1:00-4:00 pm

Tuesday-Friday

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

The office will be closed Friday, October 15, and Monday, October 18.

The office is open by appointment only – please call or email before dropping in. Masks are required inside the building.

Items for the eBlast are due by 9:00 am each Thursday.

Please use the [Publicity Form](#)

to submit your

announcements. Articles for the November *Unigram* are due Wednesday, October 20.

Please send as attached

Word docs to

uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org.

UUCM Staff & Leadership

Staff

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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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