



the UNIGRAM

Minister's Report

UUCM Annual Spring Meeting May 2022

Rev. Dr. Barbara Coeyman, Interim Minister

During the UUCM Spring All-Congregation Meeting on May 22, I offered an end-of-a-transitioning-ministry minister's report. For readers who could not be present at the meeting, I offer here my observations and suggestions for future transitioning at UUCM.

Big picture, these two years of ministry and congregational life in the context of a pandemic have been like no other! Transitioning ministry dedicated to change in the aftermath of significant congregational conflict is challenging in the best of circumstances. That our time together has endured pandemic restrictions, online connections, and new priorities in work and family life speaks to the important shared ministry we have had together.

Here I reflect on eight aspects of this transitioning ministry these past two years. Before offering those eight points, however, let me offer a few regrets about ministries we collectively could not enjoy nearly as fully as I wished. I regret that I did not have more opportunity to connect with more UUCM congregants face-to-face, or even mask-to-mask. I also regret that through these many months, I had only one opportunity to offer my services as my

(continued on page 6)

In This Issue

<u>Worship Schedule</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Religious Education News</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Youth Group</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Rummage Sale</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>RaiseRight Challenge</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Sharing Gratitude</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Calendar</u>	<u>9</u>

Everyday Blessings

Rev. Dr. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

My husband Tom and I were eating lunch in our kitchen the other day. It was a sunny day, and we had spent part of the previous weekend getting our new deck plants in place and the fountain operational. The kitchen looks out over our deck and back yard. Tom observed that we are so fortunate, especially when we think of the situation in so many other parts of the world such as Ukraine and the Middle East. It was also the day after a weekend of several racially motivated mass killings.

I'd been feeling a kind of "heaviness" about things anyway. There just seems to be so much going haywire in the world: violence around the world and in the US itself; the ongoing COVID pandemic; the assaults on

human rights including reproductive justice and abortion access, voter suppression; climate change; the seeming intractability of racism and other kinds of prejudice; the threat of nuclear war; among others.

Amid the worry, fear, grief, and sadness, and while we're working to mitigate the evils we can, we're called to affirm life's many blessings. We're called to affirm the basic goodness of life. It's a valuable spiritual practice for any of us in these times to make it a habit to look for and affirm the many ways we're blessed on a day-to-day basis.

It's easy to overlook the "small" everyday blessings, so that's what I want to focus on. If we want to become more aware of the ways we're blessed, we

(continued on page 8)

Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

The theme for June is Celebrating Blessings

Multi-Platform Worship 10:45 am Online Service: <https://bit.ly/UUCMSundayService>

June 5 – “Blessing Those Who Came Before and Those Who Go After” Rev. Coeyman

Today we both remember and look forward. We begin the service with we engage in a ceremony of Blessings focused on the twelve UUCM members who have passed since the beginning of the COVID pandemic in March 2020. Our ceremony will invite the congregation’s naming of other departed loved ones. We pivot then to the future, in another ceremony, this one of Bridging, a ritual to recognize the transitioning of youth to young adult in congregational life.

June 12 – “Touchstones for Creating Trust” Rev. Coeyman

In my final sermon for UUCM let’s review the spiritual practice, “Circles of Trust.” In particular, let’s consider how the “Touchstones” of this program can serve as a positive guide for this congregation going forward. In particular let’s explore how the Touchstone of “Turning to Wonder” opens doors to creative dialogue and deeper understanding of both self and others.

June 19 – “Empowering the Next Generation of Advocates” Trevor Oakerson, Muncie OUTreach

As Americans, we culturally value our freedoms and rights. Trevor Oakerson will present a brief overview of the importance of civil society in protecting those freedoms and rights. Specifically, Trevor will speak about the ways in which Muncie OUTreach protects LGBTQ+ youth by giving them age-appropriate ways to explore the rich political, cultural, and social history of LGBTQ+ community.

June 26, 12:30 pm – “General Assembly Sunday”

Rev. Gretchen Haley, Senior Minister of the Foothills Unitarian Universalist Church in Fort Collins, CO will lead the 2022 Sunday Service at GA. Additional worship team members includes Rev. Sean Neil-Barron, Shari Halliday-Quan, and the GA Choir. Watch the eBlast for more information about the schedule for this service.

Religious Education for Children & Youth

RE Program – 10:45 am Sundays

June 5 – 2&3yr room, 4yr-5th grade class – Clay Day

June 12 – 2&3yr room, 4yr-5th grade class – Game Day

June 19 – 2&3yr room, 4yr-5 grade class – Flowers & Pots

June 26 – 2&3yr room, 4yr-5th grade class – Game Day

As of Sunday, March 20, we resumed having all children and youth begin in the sanctuary with their parents. Our class for 2 & 3 year-old children is in the Blue Room and is available at 10:30. Our 4 year/K-5th grade class is held in the Red Room. Following the Story for All Ages and Lantern Lighting, the congregation sings them out to their classes. Youth in 6th through 12th grades are invited to attend the service on Sunday mornings. Their Curriculum Sundays are included in their Youth Group meetings which are held on Sunday afternoons. Infants and toddlers up to 23 months will remain with their parents, as we are not offering Nursery care at this time. The Nursery Room is open and available for parents to use.

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 in the eBlast each Friday.

Religious Education Corner

Nadine Tringali, Director of Religious Education

As of Sunday, March 20, we resumed having all children and youth begin in the sanctuary with their parents. Our class for 2 & 3 year-old children is in the Blue Room and is available at 10:30. Our 4 year/K-5th grade class is held in the Red Room. Following the Story for All Ages and Lantern Lighting, the congregation sings them out to their classes. Youth in 6th through 12th grades are invited to attend the service on Sunday mornings. Their Curriculum Sundays are included in their Youth Group meetings which are held on Sunday afternoons. Infants and toddlers up to 23 months will remain with their parents, as we are not offering Nursery care at this time. The Nursery Room is open and available for parents to use.

On Sunday, June 5, the Religious Education Committee is hosting a **Teacher Appreciation Breakfast** for current and past teachers and their families. We will begin serving at 9:30. In order to prepare, I will be sending out a SignUpGenius form. Please let me know if you will be able to attend and how many in your family will be attending.

Our traditional **Summer RE Program** begins on the first Sunday in July and ends on the last Sunday in August, with classes held outside as long as the weather permits. I would love to be able to have all teachers lined up for this program before the end of June for the incoming Director. Please let me know if you would be interested in teaching or co-teaching. If you have any questions, please contact me at nadine@uuchurchmuncie.org

I hope you have been enjoying the **Soulful Home** subscription that we send out at the beginning of each month! The theme for June is *Celebrating Blessings*. Soulful Home is about creating memorable and amazing moments as you explore the monthly theme with your family! RE families receive the Soulful Home packet at the beginning of each month.

New Beginnings - My position as part-time DRE at UUCM ends on June 30. It has been an honor to have been your DRE for the past 21 years. As we continue to grow and learn...

Nadine

Youth Events

Nicole Kaplan, Coordinator of Youth Programming

June Birthdays

3 – Charlotte 29 – Toby
8 – Kendall 30 – Graham
26 – Myles

Dates

June 5, 12ish – 3:00 pm – Pride Party

Happy Summer!

When I decided on the youth calendar for this year, I had no idea what a bittersweet celebration our Pride Party would be. I scheduled our Pride Party much earlier in June this year, trying to make sure **as many** youth as possible could attend before heading separate ways for summer. When looking at

summer participation numbers and deciding that our Pride Party would be the last normally scheduled youth event until August, I had no idea that it would be my *final* youth event with UUCM.

I thought my June unigram would be wishing you all a great summer. That I'd see you all again when we come back together in August.

Well. I do still want to wish you a great summer. I want to wish you a great summer and many, many great summers to come. I have loved working with and growing alongside you, and I wish you nothing but the best.

Sending you forth with my blessings and my love.

Nicole

RUMMAGE SALE

UUCM Rummage Sale - Open to the public

Saturday, June 11th | 8:00am-12:00pm

Masks encouraged but not required

Clear out your closets! Donate those small appliances! Haul in that furniture! Box up those books! Hand over those holiday decorations!

This will be a “priceless” sale – no stickers or tags needed. Tables with signs will be set-up in the foyer and fellowship hall; please sort your items appropriately when dropping off.

Donation times are:

- Monday, June 6 from 10am-3pm
- Tuesday, June 7 from 10am-3pm;
- Wednesday, June 8 from 10am-3pm
- Thursday, June 9 from 10am-3pm, and 5-7pm
- Friday, June 10 from 10am-3pm, and 5-7pm.

Please do not drop off donations before June 6.

If you have questions about donatable items, days/times, or helping - contact a fundraising committee member.

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

Support UUCM by checking out RaiseRight

(formerly ShopWithScrip)



June 2022: For every new person who signs up for RaiseRight, you'll get one (1) entry in the drawing. For every purchase through RaiseRight, you'll get two (2) entries in the drawing. Prize is your choice of either a homemade chicken pot pie or an apple bundt cake. Drawing to occur on 7/1 with porch delivery in July.

If you go shopping (in-person or online), travel, or buy gift cards for presents - RaiseRight is made for you! You can buy gift cards for your favorite retailers and a percentage of your purchase total is donated from the retailer to UUCM. No additional money out of your pocket. Check out this 30-second informational video [here](#).

There are two ways to participate – order online at www.raiseright.com or download the app. For a quick tutorial on the app, check out this [YouTube video](#).

Signing up is easy! Sign up instructions - as well as other FAQs - are available through this online document linked [here](#).

For questions or comments, please contact **Denise Ewing** with the fundraising committee at dewing218@gmail.com.

Minister's Report

Rev. Barbara Coeyman (continued from page 1)

former-self musician: there are only so many hours in a week of ministry! Finally, I regret that, while we convened a few online meetings of "Circles of Trust" last year and the Board did so in March, we did not have opportunities for a more robust program of this important spiritual practice, which can transform personal lives and community relationships.

For my reflections on ministry, I offer a critique approach which we use in Worship Workshops: for each of my eight items, I offer a thought or two about what has been positive and productive, followed by suggestions for what UUCM can do differently in the future to expand all the more your engagement in congregational flourishing.

First: on **Volunteering**, the subject of the worship service on May 22: The roster of individuals who were acknowledged during that service illustrates the wide commitment to volunteering in this community. Going forward, you also heard the need for more volunteers, especially as we emerge from pandemic restrictions. Each person in this community should engage in some volunteering to keep this place running. Keep your eyes open for information about an upcoming Volunteer Fair later in the summer.

Second, **Communications**: Think on all the new communication tools we have acquired! --- did you ever imagine you too could be a master of Zoom?

of Communications, for everyone to commit to reading communications, responding promptly to message which ask for response, and knowing that messages distributed to entire groups mean you, each congregant. I have often enjoyed better responses to requests for help through one-on-one outreach, which requires much more time, which is limited for professional staff.

Third, **Transitioning**: The premise of this interim ministry has been transitioning. I have experienced significant change in congregational culture these

two years, toward more kindness and support as this congregation engages together in shared ministry. Still, there is more transitioning to do. I can't emphasize enough the importance of being present to the minister's recommendations for change. Sunday morning worship is a minister's principal means of communicating new ideas and habits: I call everyone to evaluate your commitment to attendance on Sunday mornings. Finally, claim your share of the transitioning work: change is not for the minister to do, it's the work of everyone in the congregation. This is your congregation.

Fourth, **Vocabulary**: When I arrived at UUCM two years ago, I was cautioned about words that I should not use, so as to not offend congregants. "Covenant" was one of these words. I commend this community on your embracing covenantal language and one year later passing an All-Church Covenant. I do urge you to overcome reactivity to other vocabulary, especially that which some regard as "religious" language. Less judgement, more curiosity about the word-choices of any individual, including the minister.

Fifth, **Afterpastor**: In several small-group setting I have explained "afterpastor:" that culture which remains in congregational life after violations of boundaries, on the part of ministers, staff, and/or congregants, which creates systemic dis-trust. I saw warm acceptance of this concept. Still, I urge more study on "afterpastor" going forward: UUCM will benefit from increasing habits of trust in authority figures such as the minister and Board leaders.

Sixth, **Denominational Affairs**: I have often seen UUCM call on both regional and national staff of the Unitarian Universalist Association, as for support during ministerial search. Still, I invite more congregants to be participate in denominational activities: to widen understanding of this liberal religion, to meet other UUs, some living not so far from Muncie. Remember that online registration for

(continued on page 7)

Minister's Report

Rev. Barbara Coeyman (continued from page 6)

General Assembly 2022, June 22-26, is still open. Scholarship support is available.

Seventh and Eighth, **Staffing and Leadership**

Development: I am proud of two important changes I have offered UUCM: I hope you continue these practices. One is in staffing. I have introduced more professional habits in staff supervision, such as use of written job descriptions, contracts, and performance appraisals. Going forward, I understand that UUCM will create a Personnel Committee, which can help expand professionalism in staffing. Additionally, I have transformed the previous Program Council to a Leadership Development Committee. Eventually this committee can supersede the current Nominating Committee to

define elected leadership. Leadership Development encourages informed leadership, which enhances the running of our congregations.

In our free religion's system of Congregational Polity, it is you, the members of our congregations, who are responsible for the sustaining, change, and growth of the congregation. I wish UUCM well as you continue to grow and move forward, in membership, in understanding of UU identity, in the spirit of liberal faith which our world so desperately needs right now.

See you in church!

Rev. Barbara

Sharing Gratitude



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."

It Takes a Village...

Thank you to all those who helped make Grace Reef's Celebration of Life the wonderful event it was! Ric Dwenger for walking me through how to set up the sound system; Linda Morton and Judy Craig for table decorations and numerous related tasks; Julie, Bob, and Elsbeth Fritz, for their work on the reception...If I've omitted anyone, know I am nonetheless grateful. ~**Rev. Julia**

A huge thank you to **Kirk Robey** and **Mary Johnson Robey** for their dedication to running the Chalice Bakery year after year! During the 2021-2022 fiscal year they raised \$3,711.05 for the church – THAT'S OUTSTANDING! Much gratitude to those who take advantage of their yummy offerings, knowing the funds go to support UUCM. After a much-deserved summer break, we can't wait to see what Kirk and Mary 'cook up' for fall 2022!
~**UUCM Fundraising Committee**

Everyday Blessings

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

have to be on the lookout for them. We have to notice them as blessings and take time to affirm them. That's the antidote to taking them for granted. Here are four questions we can ask ourselves that can help us become more likely to see the ways in which we're blessed. It may seem that the answers to all would be quite similar, particularly the first three. But be aware of the nuances; how we ask the question affects the answer.

1) What am I grateful for today? Be as specific as possible. It doesn't have to be something "big;" in fact, it usually won't be. As I write this, the window in my study is open and the breeze is blowing in. The Japanese willow in our front yard is leafed out in its Spring green-and-pink foliage. My dog lies sleeping peacefully near my chair. Later, we'll go watch our 7-year-old grandson play baseball. What blessings!

2) What simple ordinary things bring me pleasure? Perhaps it's being outside in the natural world; perhaps it's being inside curled up with a good book. Perhaps take pleasure in crafting something, in writing, in listening to or playing music. Maybe it's dancing. Seek those things out, and realize they are as important as the things we "have to do."

3) What brings me joy? By "joy," I mean that deep undercurrent of life that is at the same time realistic and positive. It isn't Pollyanna. While happiness may be fleeting, joy continues. It's there; we just have to tap into it. I know a young man who was an angry, struggling tween and teenager. There were times I feared for his life. A middle school band teacher saw something in him that no one else had, and inspired him to take up music. That young man went on to form his own combo in college and is a first-rate jazz trumpeter, composer, and arranger. When he plays, his entire being reflects the sheer joy that he feels.

4) How do I take a break when I need to? How do I find the blessing of rest? Do I embrace it as equally important as work? This is a countercultural action in the current culture. To rest and not feel guilty for doing so is absolutely necessary. We need various

times of rest: daily rest breaks, weekly "sabbaths," longer times when we unplug and let go. We need different kinds of rest as well: physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual. Our needs for rest change as we change, too.

May we all find gratitude and pleasure, joy, and rest, even in these difficult times.

Rev. Julia

Joys and Concerns

Sharing our joys and concerns with one another during Sunday worship helps to strengthen the bonds of community among us. As we bear witness to one another's lives, the ups and the downs, we come to know others and ourselves better. It also gives others a chance to comfort or rejoice with us, and us with others. Particularly with multi-platform worship, it lets those who are remote know what's going on in the lives of those in the sanctuary and conversely. You may use the loose-leaf notebooks provided in the entryway for this purpose, or type your joy or concern in the chat if you're attending remotely.

~Rev. Julia

June 2022 UUCM Calendar

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

Regular Weekly/Monthly Events

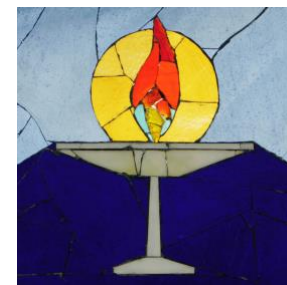
Check the eBlast for in-person locations or links to these Zoom meetings

Adult Discussion Group via Zoom	Sundays	9:15 am
Multi-Platform Worship Service	Sundays	10:45 am
RE Classes – see page 3 for details	Sundays	10:45 am
Board of Trustees	2 nd Wednesday	7:00 pm

June Meetings & Events

Check with committee chairs or church office for in-person locations or Zoom links

Worship Associates	Wednesday	June 1	7:30 pm
Teacher Appreciation Breakfast	Sunday	June 5	9:30 am
Rummage Sale Set Up	Sunday	June 5	After the service
Youth Group Pride Party	Sunday	June 5	Noon – 3:00
Rummage Sale Donation Drop Off All Week (see page 4 for schedule)			
OWL Summer Camp	Mon – Fri	June 6-10	10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Rummage Sale	Saturday	June 10	8:00 am – noon
Pastoral Associates	Tuesday	June 14	4:00 pm
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	June 16	7:00 pm
Unigram submissions due	Wednesday	June 22	9:00 am
RE Committee	Wednesday	June 29	7:00 pm



UUCM Summer Office Schedule

Monday

1:00-4:00 pm

Tuesday-Thursday

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Friday

Closed

Items for the eBlast are due by 9:00 am each Thursday. Please use the [Publicity Form](#) to submit your announcements. Articles for the next *Unigram* are due Wednesday, June 22. Please send as attached Word docs to uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MULTIPLATFORM / PORTLAND • 2022

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. This year's GA takes place June 22 – 26, online or in-person in Portland, Oregon.

For more information visit www.uua.org/ga. Register at www.uua.org/ga/registration.

UUCM Staff & Leadership

Staff

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Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 4:00 pm | Tuesday – Thursday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm | Closed Fridays

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