



the UNIGRAM

Notes from Rev. Barbara

Rev. Dr. Barbara Coeyman, Interim Minister

Covenants for Departing Staff Members

We want to review with the UUCM community protocol for the departure of members of the professional staff. The employment period for Nadine Tringali, Director of Religious Education, and Nicole Kaplan, Coordinator of Youth Programming, officially ended on June 30; the ministry of Rev. Barbara officially ends on August 15.

Staff members of UU congregations are strongly encouraged to observe best practices in covenanting both with their successors in professional roles and with the congregation. The covenants are, in effect, three-pronged: among the departing staff, the incoming staff, and the congregation. Be assured that Nadine, Nicole, and Rev. Barbara understand well these best practices, which overall ask us departing staff, after the time of our employment, to stay clear of involvement in and communications with the congregation, particularly in areas of congregational life in which we have served, for a defined amount of time. This does not mean that departing staff totally cut off any

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Right Now, This Is What Is: A Spirituality of Restraint

Rev. Dr. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

I read the phrase, “right now, this is what is,” from a Buddhist teacher whose name I don’t recall, some time ago, and I have been pondering it ever since. It’s become a mantra for me. I tend to get caught up in wishing things were different than they are, thinking they *should* be different, grumping because they are *not* different. As I write this, the main source of such ruminations is of course the nullifying of *Roe v. Wade* and the threats to marriage equality, LGBTQI+ rights in general, access to contraception that the recent Supreme Court decision may drag with it. But there are innumerable others as well: climate change, the loosening of gun- regulations and the so-called

“freedom to carry,” continuing racism. On a smaller scale, I wish things at UUCM were more settled... And so on.

I heard a similar phrase from my daughter, years ago: “It is what it is.” The phrase, and her use of it, annoyed me initially, because it seemed to smack of fatalism, resignation, and a “whatever” attitude. Over the years, and as I have come to understand Buddhist insights more deeply, I have come to appreciate that phrase, as I do “right now, this is what is.” These phrases do not necessarily reflect fatalism nor resignation. It’s not about rolling over and playing dead. It’s not about accepting whatever comes our way without trying to change it for the better. It *can* lead to any of these unhealthy attitudes, but it doesn’t have to do so.

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Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

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

July 3 – “American Documents” Brandon Mundell

July 10 – “Lessons and UU Values Embedded in *Encanto*” Benjamin A. Strack

Explore the representation of generational trauma and how one fictional family moves forward through it, within the characters and stories of the film *Encanto*. Warning: There will be spoilers.

July 17 – “We Are a Changing, Creative People” Iris Chalk

Where do you draw inspiration from? How does poetry, nature, movement, music, etc. invigorate you when you might otherwise feel stagnant? How can we center creativity during moments of transformation in our communities? This Sunday we will explore how to get creative about the possibilities of our Unitarian Universalist communities. We will ask ourselves: what sparks joy? And, what do we need to let go of in order to make room for ways of being that actually serve and inspire us?

July 24 – Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer and the Pastoral Associates

What’s a Pastoral Associate and why do we have them? What do they do, anyway? Join us on Sunday morning, July 24th, and find out as the Pastoral Associates lead worship.

Part of the service will be a Q & A, and we want to answer *your* questions. Please send questions you have about the Pastoral Associates, or about pastoral care at UUCM more generally, to Rev. Julia (julia@uuchurchmuncie.org) by July 20th.

**July 31 – “Reflecting and Questioning: Prophetic Voices and Our Own Deep Listening Practice”
Women’s Connection Soul Matters Group**

Religious Education for Children & Youth

RE Program – 10:45 am Sundays

Every Sunday – 2&3 year-olds in the Blue room; 4yr/K-5th grade class – *Magic Summer*

All children and youth begin in the sanctuary with their parents. We have a designated area up front by the glass doors that is designed for our families with young children. There are pillows, books, and a variety of manipulatives. The worship service in the sanctuary begins at 10:45. Our class for 2 & 3 year-old children is held in the Blue Room and is available at 10:30. Following the *Story for All Ages* and the *Lighting of the Children’s Lantern*, the congregation sings the 4yr/K-5th grade children out to their class. Youth in 6th through 12th grades are invited to attend the service on Sunday mornings. 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. **We will not meet on Sunday, July 3.**

Religious Education Corner



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Our **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. If we have inclement weather the class will be held in the Red Room. This summer we are using the curriculum *Magic Summer* by Soul Matters for our 4yr/K-5th grade class. Our lead teachers are **Sophia Taylor** and **Maggie Bartlett**, assisted by **Kendall Hollems** and **Kathryn Enos**. The 2&3 Year Old Room is staffed by **Vivian White**, **Iris Chalk**, **Kathryn Enos**, and **Maggie Bartlett**.

UUCM Religious Education Committee

Retrospective on the UUA General Assembly 2022

I was happy to serve as a church delegate to the recently concluded General Assembly. Perhaps the most notable business item was a resolution passed to undertake an overhaul of the UUA by-laws. There seemed broad recognition that we're at an important inflection point—(hopefully) late in a pandemic, reckoning with racial and other identity-based injustices, as well as declining levels of church participation. The conference, I thought, represented an object lesson in democratic participation: encouraging both in-person and (lots of!) virtual attendance—I watched business, live, and on-demand sessions from my living room; eliminating registration fees for business-only attendees; and hosting Ibram X. Kendi, perhaps the nation's leading scholar on anti-racism, for the renowned annual Ware Lecture.

Rather than lecture, however, Dr. Kendi engaged in a lively back-and-forth with UUA Board President Susan Frederick-Gray. Frederick-Gray led Kendi to reflect on what congregations might do in the long historical battle for racial justice in the United States. Among his notable responses was Kendi's insistence that we must speak with moral clarity, with a kind of vocabulary that, even for non-creedal UUs, acknowledges the existence of notions like "evil." Kendi suggested that while we might hope to operate from the perspective of empirical facts, facts generally don't root out deeply held (and destructive) emotional ideas. We must therefore be willing to wield a **power** that changes policy, which in turn guides thought. Wielding moral and political power can be an uncomfortable posture for some UUs. But Kendi's work is infused with the notion that one can never be neutral on matters of race. There is a constructive binary; one must be overtly anti-racist to combat the deeply embedded strictures of racism.

Steve Chalk

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."

I appreciate greatly the loving efforts of all who made **Liz Lowe's** Celebration of Life Reception befitting to her. Special thanks go to **Kirk and Mary Robey** for contacting UUCM's Congregational Caring Committee, **Hope Bradford** for designing the table placement, **Lukas Bradford, Billie Laverghetta** and **Bob Fritz** for unfurling the white table cloths to the tables, **Linda Morton** and **Judy Craig** for their lovely, creative table decorations and for laundering these special white table cloths (as they did following Grace Reef's Memorial Service also!) and everyone who donated their fresh flowers, yummy food, helped with set – up and take down following dear Liz's Service.

My heartfelt thanks go to you all,

Julie Fritz, Chair Caring Committee

A tremendous thank you to all who donated to and setup/ prepared for/ ran/ cleaned up last month's rummage sale! It was a great time to clean out our closets; offer up needed items; raise money; and reconnect with our local community. Our final total was \$2,384.11 -- THAT IS AMAZING! There were too many helpers to name but please know that we are unspeakably grateful for each of you!

Denise Ewing, Fundraising Committee

Notes from Rev. Barbara

Rev. Barbara Coeyman (continued from page 1)

communications. It means that if communication is desired by either the exited staff member or a congregant, that we check in with the sitting staff member first. The time frame which I recommend and observe for this process of checking in is one year: that is, if you want to reach me, or I need to reach you for some reason, we each agree first to run this by the next minister. This is not for purposes of laying down harsh restrictions. Instead, this protocol ensures that new staff members enter a time for settling in during which they can define their own plans and practices for their professional areas.

More specifically each of us departing staff will consult individually with our successors about our covenants of relationship and communication. We are grateful to the Office of Church Staff Finances of the UUA for recent sample covenant documents, which we individuals modify for our particular staffing circumstances. Part of the covenants for Nadine, Nicole and Barbara with our successors of course will include a 'passing of the baton' of information which we imagine will be of help as they develop their new roles at UUCM. We are also well aware that the roles of minister and Director of Lifespan Faith Development have yet to be filled. We three departing staff agree to be available for consultation and mentoring to our successors after our official end dates, named above.

We hope this review of best-practices protocol for departing staff members is helpful. Any questions, you know how to find me: barbara@uuchurchmuncie.org.

UUA Ministry Days: Berry Street Lecture

In addition to stimulating sessions from General Assembly, I encourage UUCM to consider viewing the 2022 Berry Street Essay, the annual honorific presentation by a UU minister, delivered during Ministry Days. Many of you enjoyed the 2021 Berry Street which we viewed in two summer worship services last August. The 2022 presenter is Rev. Mykal Slack, addressing "More Faith, Power, and People: Breaking the Cycles That Separate Us From Unitarian Universalism." This 2022 presentation is, in my view, the most engaging Berry Street I have ever attended.

Berry Street Essays may be found at <https://www.uuma.org/page/berrystreet>.

Here is the Blurb of the presentation: "Perhaps more than any other time, it matters that we go beyond the surface of what our Unitarian Universalism espouses to be on paper and into who it calls us to be within ourselves, in the communities we call home, and out in the world. What does it mean to give our bodies, minds, and spirits over to the possibility of a faith living out the very best parts of itself? And how do we support one another, as religious professionals, lay leaders, congregants, and community partners, to not just envision, but actually live into a Unitarian Universalism that is robust, innovative, dynamic, and worthwhile for ALL of us? This year's Essay posits that disrupting the cycles of usual understanding and influence is a beginning."

Rev. Barbara's Schedule

Friends, please note that I will begin my remaining vacation/study leave time on July 1, to last through the end of my contract with UUCM, August 15. I am following usual practice for interim ministers during summers when we move to new locations: to apply much of our vacation / study leave to the process of packing up in one location and moving to another setting. My final task of closure with UUCM will be the packing up my office (and all those books), which for various reasons beyond the scope of this brief note to explain, I will do during the first half of July.

Also, to clarify, I remain the minister of record at UUCM through August 15 ... that is, in the case of serious emergencies, I remain in the loop of communications, if not being on-site at UUCM. I trust that this "on-call" mindset is theoretical, not actual, although lessons from a horrific incident at one of our congregations in Knoxville, TN in August 2008 reminds us of the possibilities for sudden turns in our expectations for what tomorrow will bring.

Rev. Barbara

Right Now, This Is What Is: A Spirituality of Restraint

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

It is about *restraint*, about recognizing our limits and accepting them with grace. It is about having the *humility* to know that we can't do it all, have it all, be it all. It's about accepting that while we certainly have *some* control over how life unfolds, we do not have unlimited nor absolute control. Never did, never will. It seems to me that our culture encourages us to forget this point, to assume that we have no limits or at least that we have fewer limits than we do. "Right now, this is what is" is an encouragement to do something countercultural, to accept and even to *embrace* our legitimate limits. There are indeed limits to what we can do, can be, can have, can accomplish. To act otherwise is to get caught in the sin that's traditionally been called *hubris*, or pride. And it puts us in line for a lot of unnecessary anguish.

In addition to being a call to restraint, the nuance of "right now..." reminds us that things change. Life is in constant flux. What is right now will not be a day from now, nor even an hour from now. Yes, the change might be subtle, but change it will be.

I want to come back to that word *legitimate* in order to clarify what I mean. These are *genuine* limits, not manufactured ones. They aren't limits we put on ourselves because we're fearful or feeling lazy, although fear and, yes, laziness, are legitimate too. They aren't limits that others put on us by how they define us. They aren't ideas about limits that may be left over from how we grew up. They aren't ways people tell us we're inadequate because we have physical, mental, or emotional challenges. They aren't the ways people tell us we're imperfect because we're gay or bi- or trans. They're not the restrictions that we may have encountered because we're black, or Hispanic, or female, or fat, or old, or an immigrant.

As human beings, we have amazing, mind-boggling, heart-fluttering and sometimes stomach-churning freedom and potential. And we have a sacred calling to act out of our freedom in order to realize that

potential. We also have a sacred responsibility to recognize and to accept that our potential and our freedom are not unlimited. Doing so, I believe, frees us to be and to do all we can with joy and contentment. It means that we are human, and that is enough.

Rev. Julia

UUCM's Pastoral Associates are looking forward to leading our Sunday morning worship on July 24th. This service will include a question-and-answer session in which you can learn more about who our Pastoral Associates are and what they do as we answer ***your*** questions. Whether you will attend that service in person or via Zoom, I invite you to submit the questions you would like the PAs to address. Please email questions to Rev. Julia (julia@uuchurchmuncie.org) no later than July 20th! Thanks.

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

July 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 (no meeting July 3)	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

July Meetings & Events

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

Worship Associates	Wednesday	July 6	7:30 pm
Pastoral Associates	Tuesday	July 12	4:00 pm
UU Book Club	Thursday	July 14	7:00 pm
Church Office Closed for Summer Break July 18-22			
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	July 21	7:00 pm
Unigram submissions due	Wednesday	July 27	9:00 am
Kitchen Committee Cleaning	Saturday	July 30	10:15 am

Rev. Julia's Times Away

Mostly, I will be in Muncie the next two months. As my schedule stands now, I will be out of town from July 12th through the 15th and August 12th through 14th. I'm also guest preaching at Hendricks County August 21st and may drive over there the night before. You are always welcome to contact me via email (julia@uuchurchmuncie.org). If it's an emergency, call the church office (765-288-9561). If the office is not open, leave a message on my voicemail.

Change in COVID Masking Status

Since the COVID risk level for Delaware County has shifted from low to medium, masking is now mandatory (rather than a unit-specific decision) for all groups within the church building. That's consistent with the policy ([linked here](#)) formally approved by the Board of Trustees at its May meeting. The Board monitors the county risk level on a weekly basis, with an eye toward providing relevant updates via the eBlast. Thanks for continuing to keep our beloved community both safe and welcoming!



UUCM Summer Office Schedule

Monday
1:00 – 4:00 pm

Tuesday-Thursday
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Friday
Closed

The church office will be closed for summer break July 18 – 22.

Items for the eBlast are due by 9:00 am each Thursday. **Items for the July 22 eBlast must be sent one week early (by July 14)** due to summer break. Please use the [Publicity Form](#) to submit your announcements.

Articles for the next *Unigram* are due Wednesday, July 27. Please send as attached Word docs to uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org.

UUCM Staff & Leadership

Staff

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barbara@uuchurchmuncie.org

Rev. Dr. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister
julia@uuchurchmuncie.org

Christie Williams, Office Administrator
christie@uuchurchmuncie.org

Dr. James Helton, Director of Music
jim@uuchurchmuncie.org

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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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