



the UNIGRAM

Stories of Belonging

Rev. Dr. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

Many of you have heard me say this before—religion for me has always been about community. It’s not too much of a stretch to say that religion has been about *belonging*.

The link between religion and belonging goes far back for me, and, perhaps oddly, has roots in feelings of *not* belonging. Most of the time when I was a child, I felt deeply that I did not belong in my family of origin, although I certainly could not have articulated that at the time. I simply didn’t *fit*. I was somehow different. And there was nothing I could do about it except to live with the discomfort, which of course I also had no way to describe.

I attended the small Presbyterian church in the small town in Ohio where my mother and I lived. That’s where my two or three friends attended. It was there that Miss Ruth found me. I don’t recall Miss Ruth’s last name now; I suppose she had one, but she was “Miss Ruth” to everyone. The small church in the small town had a (very) small choir, and Miss Ruth was a key part of it. Despite my being a kid, she invited me to join the choir.

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Splinters from the Board

Eleanor Trawick, President

What does the Board of Trustees of a church do? What is its purpose and function?

Those are very good questions, and ones that I’m still trying to wrap my head around. I’ve been helped in my understanding of the Board’s role by reading *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership*, by Dan Hotchkiss.

The Board is *not* in charge of everything: many responsibilities belong to the staff, and many others to the various committees. And the Board is *not* in charge of overseeing everybody else and micromanaging what they do!

Broadly speaking, the Board is responsible for governance and the minister, along with the rest of the staff whom they oversee, is responsible for ministry. Ministry comprises all the valuable work that the church does both within and beyond the church walls: Sunday morning worship, religious education, pastoral care, social justice work, fellowship and hospitality, music, membership, and so forth. Governance comprises all the work that goes on behind the scenes that supports the ministries and the institution of the church: finances and fundraising, property maintenance, personnel decisions, policy, congregational meetings.

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Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

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

September 4 – “Coal, Curses, and Collusion” Rev. Joel Tishken

Join us we celebrate Labor Day with a look at West Virginia. Few places exemplify extractive capitalism and the collusion of government with big business better than West Virginia’s coal industry. So profound is the impact on the land and people that some alternative means of explaining why things have gone as they did have emerged.

September 11 – “Alternative to Violence Project” Miriam Bunner, Midwest Regional Rep. Alternatives to Violence Project

September 18 – “Apocalypse. Now?” Rev. Joel Tishken

Is the world, to employ an American allegory of unclear origin, “going to hell in a handbasket?” Is our contemporary country and world especially fraught and more troubled then ever? Is the apocalypse now? Join us as we consider whether this is the beginning of the end...or perhaps not.

We’ll also celebrate Ingathering with a flower/green communion ritual. Watch the weekly eBlast for details.

September 25 – “The Kindom of Creation” Rev. Jamie Hinson-Reiger, UUI

From slime molds to forest floors, counting crows to Happy the elephant, Scientists are beginning to understand more and more that intelligence and awareness are not the unique possessions of human beings or even the so-called higher mammals. Indeed, these qualities appear to be omnipresent in creation. Of course, many other cultures and ways of knowing have always acknowledged this. What does that mean for our relationships to living things, especially as UUs, who hold inter-relatedness as a core religious principle? This Sunday we will explore the intelligence of the natural world and indigenous biologist Robin Wall Kimmerer’s concept of kinship as applied to humanity and the natural world.

Religious Education for Children & Youth

RE Program – 10:45 am Sundays

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. 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.

124th Bazaar in the Woods

Saturday, November 5 ★ 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Co-Chairs: Linda McKean (lwmckean@comcast.net, 765-749-3892)
 Katie Frederick (katie@kbfrederick.com, 765-808-1601)

It takes the WHOLE CHURCH to make our Bazaar successful. We need yoUU!

Below is the Bazaar week schedule. Mark your calendar and plan to help.



October 30: Set-Up Sunday

After the church service stay to transform the sanctuary. Help put away chairs, set up tables and arrange them according to our Layout Map.

October 31 – November 4: Donation Drop-offs

Drop off your donations from noon to 6:00 pm each day. Start now to gather your donations: jewelry, collectibles, priceless treasures for the Silent Auction, tools, rummage valuables, quality craft items, food (freeze now), books, plants, pots, garden items and children's toys.

There will be NO Encore clothing in 2022

Friday, November 4, 5 – 7 pm: Helper Thank You

Bazaar preparations are almost complete. All workers are invited to a pre-Bazaar meal from 5pm – 7pm, in the Fellowship Hall. We appreciate the time you dedicate to make our bazaar successful!

November 5: Bazaar Day, 8 am – 2 pm

Volunteer your time to help in one of the church booths or many of the other opportunities to help. Sign-up sheets are out as part of the Volunteer Fair. Pick your favorite book or two and sign up for a couple time slots.

November 5: Post-Bazaar Clean-Up

It will be a busy day! However, it is not finished until the sanctuary is cleared and chairs put back in place, and all of the class rooms are back in order making the church ready for Sunday service. Please stay to help clean up.

September Dedicated Offering: Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors

Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force (FOHN) needs **you** to help fund and carry out our next project.

From January through July 2022, with generous donations of time and money (\$12,000), UUCM worked with the Nutrition Committee of the Muncie Afghan Refugees Resettlement Committee (MARRC) to provide food for Afghan families who moved to Muncie after the Taliban reclaimed Afghanistan. Those families are now supporting themselves.

In March 2020, when the pandemic made it impossible to continue our usual programs, FOHN created a new way to help Muncie families. We identified a few food insecure families through our contacts at Second Harvest Food Bank. Second Harvest runs the Forward STEPS program (the old Teamwork for Quality Living), a relationship-based program bringing social service agencies, businesses and community members together to support struggling households. Each month we use a grocery purchasing app to order the groceries our families request, allowing \$20 per person each month. (That arbitrary amount was based on our available funds when the pandemic struck.) While we can't purchase all the groceries these families need, we can give them a boost, which we hope makes their lives a little easier.

We hope to expand this program soon. What do we need? **1) Money.** (We spent every penny of the \$12,000 donated to support MARRC). **2) Online shoppers** for each family we are able to help.

FOHN will receive the Dedicated Offering in September. Please give as generously as you can. Make your donation with check or cash in the offering basket, or via text during the Sunday service on September 11 or 18. You can also mail your check to the church. Make your check payable to UUCM and note "FOHN" on the memo line. And stop by our booth during the Volunteer Fair.

Pokagon Fall Family Retreat Returns!

Save the date! October 14-16, the Pokagon Fall Family Retreat makes its return after a short couple of years hiatus due to an Indiana DNR cancellation and COVID-19. The retreat is a great time to bond and form deeper connections with fellow UUs in the stunning natural beauty of Pokagon State park and the WPA era Group Camp along the shores of Lake James near Angola, Indiana. All members and friends of the congregation are welcome to attend and the camp is all ages friendly and accessible for those with disabilities. To learn more, ask questions and sign up to attend, contact **Jan Mundell** by phone or text at 765-730-9554 or email **Lisa Cox** at inweebie@yahoo.com. We will be looking forward to seeing you there!

Choir Season!

The Sanctuary Choir will begin our 2022-23 church year this coming Tuesday evening, August 30. We rehearse Tuesdays 7:30-9:00, and we present music at one Sunday service per month, on average. All are welcome, and you don't have to know how to read music. The choir sings a wide variety of music, from traditional choral works to Broadway, pop, and jazz. Because COVID numbers remain variable, we will continue with a cautious approach. (Remember that singing is a 'super-spreading activity'.) I ask that everyone be vaccinated and boosted, and we will wear masks and spread out according to people's comfort level. I look forward to seeing beloved familiar faces, and I hope to see some new folks too!!

~Jim Helton

Stories of Belonging

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

The choir. With Miss Ruth. Wow! That thoughtful gesture on her part gave me one of my earliest tastes of what it felt like to belong.

The next experience, or several experiences, that wove belonging and religion together for me occurred when I was an undergraduate college student at *the* Ohio State University. There were far more students at OSU than there were people in the small town where I had lived. However, again, I found a sense of belonging in through religious involvement.

Similarly, I felt completely welcome when I was in seminary at a United Methodist seminary in Ohio, again despite not being Methodist; indeed, by that time, I was pretty much not Christian, either. But the atmosphere there at that time was very open and encouraged us to find our own paths, even if they looked a bit strange to some of our classmates.

Equally with graduate school in Tennessee, I found a Presbyterian church that provided a supportive community for both my daughter and me. They welcomed me, even though by that time I was quite forthcoming about my not being Christian, much less Presbyterian.

I had less fortunate experiences with “standard” churches once I arrived in Muncie. That’s when I discovered UUCM, and, as they say, the rest is history. There is however one other experience I want to recognize here. When the Pastoral Care Department was begun at Ball Hospital (long before it was IU Health/Ball), the founding chaplain, Rev. Robert Burton, invited me to join his small department, bringing on board a Unitarian Universalist Buddhist chaplain, somewhat of a novelty for Muncie. My experience over several years of chaplaincy solidified my love of ministry, but that’s a story for another time; it would take us too far afield here.

I’ve told stories at some length here, but with a purpose. I want our congregation to offer the kind of



Photo by [Hannah Busing](#) on [Unsplash](#)

welcome to others that has sustained me over many decades. In his August *Unigram* column, Rev. Joel wrote that “Our congregation is an important refuge and safe space.” I want us to offer that to our community.

The list of people we welcome, according to our Mission Statement, is impressive, but let’s focus on the last paragraph:

“When we say we practice inclusivity, we mean it. We do our best to welcome everybody, and, we are also aware we are imperfect. When we recognize that we are falling short, we do our best to change our attitudes and behaviors.”

Take time to read that paragraph again. As we approach this year of renewal, let’s focus on becoming the best we can be. We don’t have to become something else. Let’s just become the best version of who we already are.

With hope,

Rev. Julia

Splinters from the Board

Eleanor Trawick, President (continued from page 1)

The Board delegates authority for the various ministries to the minister, to the rest of the staff, and to committees that are directly responsible for carrying out this work. The Board may offer guidance, especially if Board members have a shared vision for how the mission of the church should be manifested in a particular context. The Board holds the minister, the staff, and volunteers accountable for how they minister to the congregation and to the community.

One area of governance where the Board has particular responsibility is in financial matters. The Finance Committee reports to the Board, and the Treasurer and the President both serve on the committee. The Board is ultimately responsible for presenting a budget to the congregation and seeing that the congregation passes it, and then for making sure that all parts of the church stick to the budget.

Another area of governance where the Board has an important role is in policy. The Board is responsible

for keeping the Policies and Procedures Manual up to date, and also for proposing changes to the by-laws (changes that must be approved by the congregation).

The Board of Trustees of a corporation is ultimately accountable to the shareholders, but to whom or to what is the Board of Trustees of a church accountable?

We are of course accountable to the members of the congregation. The Board must do what is best for the congregation—however, not just for the current congregation, but for the congregations of the future as well.

The ultimate “owner” to whom the Board is accountable is the values and the mission of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie. If the Board doesn’t work to advance those values and that mission, then nothing that we do is meaningful.



If you have a note of gratitude you’d like to share in the next Unigram, please send it to uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org, subject line “Sharing Gratitude.”

Sharing Gratitude

Many, many years ago, **Jean Redburn** had the loving inspiration to create a Caring Committee for our Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie.

Currently, the UUCM Caring Committee supports our friends and members by coordinating rides to UU services, UU functions, and medical appointments, and by coordinating shopping trips, meal service for those in need, set up / take down, provide refreshments for memorial services, and sending cards of celebration / condolence.

The Caring Committee of UUCM has always considered friends and members of the congregation also to be members of the Caring Committee and to share in our service to the congregation.

I owe Jean a profound debt of gratitude for her inspiration. Serving as Co-Chair has been and continues to be a great honor and a great joy for me. ~**Julie Fritz, Chair**

September 2022 UUCM Calendar

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

Regular Weekly Events

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

| | | |
|---|----------|---------------|
| Adult Discussion Group via Zoom (no meeting 9/4) | Sundays | 9:15 am |
| Multi-Platform Worship Service | Sundays | 10:45 am |
| RE Classes – see page 2 for details | Sundays | 10:45 am |
| Coffee Hour | Sundays | After service |
| Volunteer Fair (through Sept 18) | Sundays | After service |
| Choir Rehearsal | Tuesdays | 7:30 pm |

September Meetings & Events

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

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------|----------|
| Church Office Closed | Fri & Mon | Sept 2 & 5 | |
| RE Committee | Sunday | Sept 4 | 9:00 am |
| Pastoral Associates | Sunday | Sept 4 | 12:00 pm |
| Board of Trustees | Tuesday | Sept 6 | 7:00 pm |
| Worship Associates | Wednesday | Sept 7 | 7:30 pm |
| UU Book Club | Thursday | Sept 8 | 7:00 pm |
| Committee on Ministries | Thursday | Sept 15 | 7:00 pm |
| Unigram submissions due | Wednesday | Sept 21 | 9:00 am |
| OWL 7-9 | Sunday | Sept 25 | 10:30 am |



UUCM Office Schedule

Monday

1:00 – 4:00 pm

Tuesday- Friday

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

The office will be closed Friday, September 2, and Monday, September 5 (Labor Day).

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, September 21.

Please send as attached Word docs to

uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org

Volunteer Fair: Now until September 18

Come check out the fall volunteer fair each week NOW through September 18! We extended a week to capture those of you coming to the board cookout! Committees have given a lot of thought on how get involved in a variety of ways - on a continual, as-needed, and one-time basis - something to fit everyone's schedules. If you need to join the fair virtually, we will offer a Zoom option on September 4, just stay on Zoom after service. We hope you consider how you are able to help our community continuing exploring faith, practicing inclusivity, and living justice.

Cookout on Sunday, September 18

The Board of Trustees invites everyone to a cookout luncheon on Sunday, September 18, 12:00 noon. This will be after Rev. Joel's Ingathering service, and during the final Sunday of the Volunteer Fair, with both outdoor and indoor seating if the weather permits. There is no cost for this luncheon, not even a free-will donation!

Come and hang out with your UU friends and enjoy grilled foods (including vegetarian) and side dishes prepared by your Board of Trustees.

UUCM Staff & Leadership

Staff

Rev. Dr. Joel Tishken, Acting Minister
joel@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

Board of Trustees

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President

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Steve Chalk
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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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