



# the UNIGRAM



**Rev. Dr. Joel Tishken**  
**Acting Minister**

For people of our values, 2016 onward has been a trying time politically, to put it mildly. Amid the political turn to the right, we endured a global pandemic. The pandemic brought its own miseries, and exposed the shortcomings of the Trump administration and the inequalities that made the pandemic worse for people of color and those in poverty. The pandemic remains on-going, as do its variety of economic and social dislocations. While each of us were impacted by the pandemic and trumpism in different ways, no one escaped it.

No manual existed for how to remain a functioning church community during quarantine. For the most part, there were only wrong answers. Whatever choices are made about online church, then hybrid church, or what kind of safety policies and masking to follow, it always creates some people who are happy and others who are unhappy. Some people took their extra anxiety out on their staff, lay leaders, and one another. I too have been guilty of misdirecting my anxiety. It's important to regularly

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## Splinters from the Board

**Eleanor Trawick, President**

I am writing before the October 23 congregational meeting, and I have no Board business to discuss, so here is an item of all-church fun and games instead.

I spent the weekend of October 13–16 up at Pokagon State Park with forty-some other UUs at the annual fall retreat that our congregation organizes. I was part of the early crew that did the shopping and the initial food preparation for the weekend before Friday night, which is when most people rolled in.

The Group Camp at Pokagon, which we took over for the weekend, consists of a central building that comprises a dining hall, a commercial kitchen, a small multi-purpose room, and a single unisex bathroom;

three heated buildings with multiple bunk beds in them; twelve unheated cabins; and a men's and women's bathhouse. The camp is right on Lake James, with spectacular views at sunset. And the fall leaves were at their peak on this particular weekend.

A few people took a pass on the bunk beds and midnight walks to the bathhouse, and opted instead for the posh accommodations at the Potawatami Inn (also in the park).

The UU "retreat" is an unstructured event. People come together three times a day for meals, but otherwise do as they please. Some of us hiked. Others played games and worked on jigsaw puzzles in the dining hall. Others sat around a fire and

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## Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

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

*As of Sunday, October 30, we implemented a change in masking stipulations for Sunday services. The section closest to the windows will be "masks required." The other sections of seats will be "masks optional."*

***This month's Dedicated Offering recipient is Motivate Our Minds.  
The offering will be collected November 13 & 20.***

**November 6 – "Nature of the Beast" Rev. Joel Tishken**

Images of animals as inherently and predominantly competitive and ferocious are commonplace. Yet how accurate are those images? How might we benefit from their reexamination?

**November 13 – "De-escalation" Jerry McKean**

**November 20 – Rev. Joel Tishken**

**November 27 – Rev. Dr. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer**

## Religious Education for Children & Youth

**RE Program – 10:45 am Sundays**

All children begin in the Sanctuary with their grownups and church community. Families are invited to sit wherever they are comfortable, plus, we have an area designed for young families with pillows, books, and a variety of manipulatives up front by the glass doors, where little ones can see what's going on during the service.

Following the Story for All Ages and the Lighting of the Children's Lantern portions of the service, the congregation sings the children out to their Religious Education class. A family's grownups are always welcome to attend class with their children!

A nursery for infants and toddlers up to 23 months is available starting at 10:30am.

For more information about our Religious Education Program, please contact our Acting Director of Religious Education, **Susanne Hinson-Rieger**, at [susanne@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:susanne@uuchurchmuncie.org) or 317-418-1679 (voice or text).

## 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.

## RE Corner

*Susanne Hinson-Rieger, Acting Director of Religious Education*

Dear UUCM Families!

I'm excited to share with you a new [Facebook Group for UUCM Families](#)! This is an additional way we can stay connected with one another, and a place where you can receive information about what all is going on in RE programming. I'll be sharing upcoming events, surveys, and resources such as stories, videos, and activities from Sunday RE each week. I hope you'll join the group and check it out!

These resources can help prompt family conversations and I hope you'll find them helpful! One of the reasons we go to church is to be inspired to live out our Unitarian Universalist values in our day-to-day life, so when our grownups can encourage children and youth to, for example, apply the Seven (and soon-to-be Eight) UU Principles to situations and challenges we face every day, that's priceless! Don't worry if you don't have all the answers! No one expects you to. We are a religion of life-long learners. We love the questioning!

From one of my favorite UU Hymns, #354 in the gray hymnal: "We Laugh, We Cry"

We seek elusive answers to the questions of this life.

We seek to put an end to all the waste of human strife.

We search for truth, equality, and blessed peace of mind.

And then, we come together here, to make sense of what we find.

And we believe in life, and in the strength of love,

and we have found a joy being together.

And in our search for peace, maybe we'll finally see:

even to question, truly is an answer.

As always, I'm here if you need anything. I can be reached at [susanne@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:susanne@uuchurchmuncie.org) or 317-418-1679 (voice or text).

Peace and Love,

***Susanne***

# 124th Bazaar in the Woods

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

Co-Chairs: Linda McKean ([lwmckean@comcast.net](mailto:lwmckean@comcast.net), 765-749-3892)

Katie Frederick ([katie@kbfrederick.com](mailto:katie@kbfrederick.com), 765-808-1601)

It takes the WHOLE CHURCH to make our Bazaar successful. We need your help spreading the word!

Make sure to tell your friends about the Bazaar!

Share the [Facebook “Bazaar in the Woods”](#) event on your Facebook page!



### October 31 – November 4: Donation Drop-offs

Drop off your donations 1-3:00 pm, and 5-7:00 pm Monday – Thursday, and 1-7:00 pm Friday. Bring us your donations: jewelry, collectibles, priceless treasures for the Silent Auction, tools, quality craft items, food, books, plants, pots, garden items and children’s items. Be sure and check the special Bazaar issue of the Unigram for details about what is needed in each booth. **There will be NO Encore clothing or Holiday Booth.**

Sunday October 30	Monday October 31	Tuesday November 1	Wednesday November 2	Thursday November 3	Friday November 4	Saturday November 5
Set up begins 12:15 – 2:30 pm	Drop off 1 – 3:00 pm	Drop off 1 – 3:00 pm	Drop off 1 – 3:00 pm	Drop off 1 – 3:00 pm	Drop off 1 – 7:00 pm	Bazaar Day! 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
	Drop off 5 – 7:00 pm	Drop off 5 – 7:00 pm	Drop off 5 – 7:00 pm	Drop off 5 – 7:00 pm	Pizza 5 – 7:00 pm	Breakdown 2:15 – 4:30 pm

### 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 on the bulletin board in the lobby. Pick your favorite booth or two and sign up for a couple time slots. Contact Linda or Katie (info above) to find the area of greatest need.

### 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.

## ♥ UUCM

**Rev. Joel Tishken** (continued from page 1)

remind ourselves to find healthy channels for the extra anxiety these trying times are bringing us—as individuals and as communities.

This issue remains an on-going one in churches. It is simply not possible to address covid in a way that will make everyone in a congregation happy. Please appreciate that your board and your staff are doing the best we can at a difficult time. Decisions don't come easy because we have competing demands being made of us from a variety of perspectives. For some our covid measures have been too strict, and for others too lax. If you don't see your desires reflected in our safety measures or the kind of services we're having—whether in the past, the present, or potentially in the future—please know that no one is ignoring your perspective. It's simply that we are hearing about and weighing a range of concerns and perspectives from a variety of viewpoints. Some of those interests are not compatible with one another. Not all of them can carry the day.

This is the challenge and promise of community. Balancing individual wants and needs amid the many is often difficult. But it is doing that hard work to find a way forward, amid our differing interests and wishes, that provides the promise. That promise provides a synergy between community and individuals that contributes to us all being our best selves, and helping others be their best selves.

Before, during, and after these things, this congregation has done a lot and been through a lot in the past decade. In addition to putting on a service every week, the Bazaar, an annual Stewardship campaign, caring for the building, and on the list could go of the usual and on-going things we do, UUCM also created: an experiment with two services, a Mission and Vision, a Building and Grounds visioning project, Long Range plan, small groups, listening sessions, more than one covenant, a grievance process...and this list is not exhaustive. Additionally, this congregation has had four different ministers and four different staff people for religious education over that time.

When we consider what has happened politically, followed by all the dislocation and tragedy of the pandemic, internal tensions about covid measures,

combined with everything this congregation has done and experienced in the past decade, it is no mystery to me why some of us are feeling anxious, or strained, or fatigued, or even depleted.

For individuals and organizations, is it healthy to engage in self-reflection, to reform, to strive for growth and change? Of course is it. But consider this. Is it also not important to do those things at the right time and for the right reasons? There are times when it is not just perfectly acceptable and healthy, but in fact the best option, to say lots of things are demanding our attention right now, our internal resources are strained, and we've got fewer people attending than we used to. I feel this is a time we would be best served to give ourselves permission to reduce our concern with revision and reform and put some of those things off for another day. Sometimes we need to love who we are and not worry so much about who we might become. Rest and renewal is no less important than revision and reform.

I'm not suggesting that we procrastinate or bury our heads in the sand and ignore what needs doing. We do have some important work to do together, and I look forward to that. What I am saying is that there are times—and I think we're in one of those times right now—when it is ok for a congregation to be happy with who and what we are and celebrate that. There is much to love right here and right now. This is why I felt a need to create a slogan for our church year together. I wanted something for us to rally around, to celebrate, and to promote our self-love. Because we totally should be in love with ourselves; there is lots to love! In all the time I've known this place and the people in it, I've witnessed generosity, kindness, and compassion for others and our planet. I've witnessed people living their values and creating a better world. It is a pleasure and honor to be a part of this group of Unitarian Universalists. And that is what I ♥ about UUCM and all of you.

What does ♥ UUCM mean to you? What does it mean to your fellow members and friends? Take a look at the bulletin boards in the lobby and inside the sanctuary to find out. Feel free to add your own colored heart, with or without your name, about what you ♥ UUCM. Create as many hearts as you would like. Let's ♥ UUCM together all year!

**Rev. Joel**

## Splinters from the Board

**Eleanor Trawick, President** (continued from page 1)

talked. I graded papers—and believe me, it was a lot more fun to grade them at Pokagon than all by myself at home!

Everyone was assigned to one meal for either food prep ahead of time or clean-up afterwards. Each person washed their own dishes and helped keep the place picked up. We all helped to clean up the camp at the end of the weekend.

It is also a multi-generational event. Campers ranged in age from toddlers to retirees. The weekend offered opportunities for some family reunions of sorts. All three of the Mundell brothers were there. Two of Robert and Sue Guillaud's adult children came, with their families.

I strongly recommend the Pokagon retreat. It's a great way to get to know new people in the church,

and to hang out with friends that you already know. It is a relaxing weekend and a good way to leave your stressors behind ... even if you do bring your grading with you. The CCC-built Group Camp and the whole state park are beautiful and well maintained.

Thanks to Travis Drown, Angela Langlie-Lesnik, and Jan Mundell for doing the shopping and organizing to make this weekend happen. Everything went very smoothly and was fun for the participants thanks to their efforts.

Next year's dates for the retreat are Thursday, October 12, through Sunday, October 15. Mark it on your calendars and plan to come!

**Eleanor**

### Pastoral Care

When I leave church and need to make a left turn onto Morrison Road to head home, I usually go over to Petty Road so that I have a four-way stop to do so. Particularly if traffic is heavy, it's a lot easier that way! For whatever reason, a couple of weeks ago, I didn't, and headed out Bradford instead. And there it was—traffic from both directions. Then I saw it—traffic from the north let up a bit...but traffic from the south was steady. That is, not until the driver of a small red pickup truck visibly slowed down to give me time to pull out and take advantage of the break on the other side. It reminded me of something I'd seen some time ago:

We have so little of each other, now. So far from tribe and fire. Only these brief moments of exchange. What if they are the true dwelling of the holy, these fleeting temples we make together when we say, "Here, have my seat," "Go ahead — you first," "I like your hat."

[Small Kindnesses, by Danusha Laméris]

Here's a link to the full poem: ["Small Kindnesses," by Danusha Laméris | Women's Voices For Change \(womensvoicesforchange.org\)](https://www.womensvoicesforchange.org)

As Laméris suggests, these are truly holy, these brief moments. Amid all that is wrong, frightening, disheartening, these remain.

~Rev. Julia and the Pastoral Associates

## November 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	Sundays	9:15 am
Multi-Platform Worship Service	Sundays	10:45 am
RE Classes	Sundays	10:45 am
Coffee Hour	Sundays	After service
Choir Rehearsal	Tuesdays	7:30 pm



### November Meetings & Events

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

**October 31 – November 4: Bazaar Set-up all week! See [page 4](#) for daily schedule.**

Board of Trustees	Tuesday	Nov 1	7:00 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	Nov 2	7:30 pm
Pastoral Associates	Sunday	Nov 6	12:00 pm
UU Book Club	Thursday	Nov 10	7:00 pm
Stewardship Committee	Friday	Nov 11	Noon
Rummage Sale Set-up	Friday	Nov 11	6:30 pm
Rummage Sale	Saturday	Nov 12	8:00 am – noon
OWL 7-9	Saturday	Nov 12	5:00 pm
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	Nov 17	7:00 pm
Unigram submissions due	Wednesday	Nov 23	9:00 am
OWL 7-9	Sunday	Nov 27	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 Wednesday & Friday November 2 & 4, and Thursday, November 17. The office will also be closed November 24 & 25 for Thanksgiving.

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, November 23. Please send as attached Word docs to [uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org)

#### Coffee Hour

Sunday Coffee Hour is returning to the sanctuary on November 6. The sanctuary has higher ceilings, many more air filters, and is large enough so that those who want to social distance from the coffee service can visit in other parts of the room.

**“Blessing of the Seasons,”** which Rev. Julia wrote for Rev. Joel's ordination, has been accepted for inclusion in the UUA Worship Web. It's cross-tagged for either ordinations or installations. Here's the link: [Blessing of the Seasons | WorshipWeb | UUA.org](#). Rev. Julia has one other piece on Worship Web, a responsive reading adaptation of “Answering the Call of Love,” written immediately after Trump's election: [We Answer the Call of Love | WorshipWeb | UUA.org](#).

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## 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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