



the UNIGRAM

The ❤️ UUCM Project: Themes and Reflections

Rev. Dr. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

When Rev. Joel suggested I link my December *Unigram* column to the I ❤️ UUCM idea he had initiated, I was excited about doing so. It proved to be an uplifting and encouraging endeavor. As I read the sentiments we had expressed on the hearts, I felt confident that we have what it takes to move forward. Here's some of what I learned.

There was a single theme that emerged most often, though in different forms, winding like a crystal stream through so many of the feelings and thoughts: UUCM provides a *safe space*, a haven that "feels like home." It's a place where "kids and teens" can explore their own values with accepting adults and other kids. We're encouraged to explore our own beliefs, rather than learning someone else's creed. We also affirm morality and ethics without a creed. We are a welcoming community. As one writer said, "the church gave me a place to belong when I needed it most." It is a "sanctuary," a "family away from family."

Our people make us what we are for many. "Special people come here, and we welcome them all heartily." We're "rebellious people who make

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Splinters from the Board

Eleanor Trawick, President

The Board of Trustees and the search committee for our next minister will be holding a series of Town-Hall Meetings to get feedback from the congregation, and to inform the congregation, about the ministerial search.

Sunday, December 11 – In the front of the sanctuary about 10 minutes after the service, not simultaneously broadcast on Zoom.

Sunday, December 18 – On Zoom only, immediately following the service.

Sunday, January 22 – In the front of the sanctuary about 10 minutes after the service.

Please plan to join us on one of these Sundays if you can. You can also communicate your thoughts directly to members of the search committee: Steve Chalk (chair), Denise Ewing, Holly Hanauer, and Ben Strack.

Rev. Joel Tishken has told the Board that he would like to be considered a candidate for our ministerial position. Members of the Board welcome this news—we are glad that Rev. Joel feels positive about the UU Church of Muncie, as we also feel positive about him. Any time a search to fill a position has an internal candidate, there is the possibility for awkwardness at best, and hurt feelings at worst. But we believe that both can be

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Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

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

This month's Dedicated Offering recipient is Christian Ministries.

The offering will be collected December 4 & 11.

December 4 – “Hygge for the Holidays” Rev. Joel Tishken

Hygge (pronounced hoo-gah) could rightly be called Denmark’s greatest export of the last few years. Why is that? What is it? Join us as we explore the concept of hygge, its benefits and shortcomings, and what it can mean for us this winter and beyond.

December 11 – Santa Lucia Maggie Bartlett, Lisa Cox, and Brandon Mundell

December 18 – “Celebrating Darkness” Rev. Joel Tishken

What are our cultural understandings about darkness? What are their origins? What is the value of darkness? Join us as we explore these questions and more in a celebration of darkness and the winter solstice.

We’ll have an opportunity to sign the UUCM membership book during today’s service.

December 24, 7:00 pm – Candlelight Service Rev. Joel Tishken

There will be no service on Sunday, December 25

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 or 317-418-1679 (voice or text).

Adult Religious Exploration

Adult Discussion Group
Every Sunday, 9:15 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.

❤️ Sharing Gratitude ❤️

❤️ Borrowing from Hillary Clinton “It takes a village.” The village showed up for our Bazaar. It was a glorious day. Our building was filled with the sounds of music, chatter, and laughter, with the presence of members, friends, and visitors, with feelings of joy, belonging, and satisfaction.

A special thank you to the Bazaar's main organizers **Linda McKean**, **Katie Frederick**, and **Kate Murray**. Thank you also to every person who donated, contributed, organized, volunteered, attended, set-up, and tore down. The number of members participating in the presentation of the Bazaar day was around 75! We also had members returning and friends again showing up. A thank you to **Ric Dwenger** who scheduled the music and also provided it. The music added great ambiance to our event. It was an outstanding day.

The bazaar was budgeted to bring in \$7000. We exceeded that goal with \$10,766! It was truly a glorious day! Our “village” did well! Thank you everyone.

~Bill Frederick and Rev. Joel

❤️ Thank you Fellowship Committee for the post-service snacks on November 20.

~Rev. Joel

❤️ On behalf of Feed Our Hungry Neighbors and Christian Ministries, thank you to everyone who has donated food to our food drive. A special thanks to the folks who have transported the food from UUCM to Christian Ministries.

~Rev. Joel

❤️ Thank you, **Denise Ewing** and crew, for the successful Volunteer Fair at UUCM. The Caring Committee added four new volunteers!

The booth was tended by: **Jane Duckworth**, Permanent Member of the Caring Committee, sending cards in times of sadness or happiness to friends and members of UUCM; **Cindy Peters** and **Susan Magrath**, volunteer meal preparers and deliverers; **Jan Moore**, recipient of volunteers’ meals.

Thank you to all of them and to the cheerful gophers: **Elsbeth Fritz** and **Billie Laverghetta**. Great job everybody.

~Julie Fritz, Caring Committee Chair

❤️ **Jane Duckworth** has stepped down from her Permanent Member of the Caring Committee of UUCM. For many, many years, Jane thoughtfully, compassionately and lovingly communicated, via cards, to friends and members of UUCM in times of sadness or happiness. Thank you, Jane.

~Julie Fritz, Caring Committee Chair

❤️ **Karen Moorman** has joined the Caring Committee of UUCM as Permanent Member in service via sending cards of congratulation or condolence to friends and members of UUCM. Welcome Karen.

~Julie Fritz, Caring Committee Chair

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

history.” “We can laugh, we can cry, we can sing together.” We’re an open-minded people, according to many responses. “Acceptance” is a word that I read often. And we are kind. We are a *community*. We’re a “place where people respect others and love them for who they are.” We’re accepted for who we are, as we are, but also encouraged to grow. One person offered this summary: “great people, good food, good times.”

As I would have expected, people mentioned music often, both Jim’s piano artistry and our choir. People highlighted the importance we place on service to others and helping the planet. They expressed affection for our woods, our little piece of the planet.

In his November *Unigram* column, Rev. Joel wrote:

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... 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.

Our heartfelt responses to why we ❤️ UUCM bear this out. There is indeed much love right here, right now. Many of us have felt battered and bruised by the national scene marked by Trumpism, militant conservatism, racism and many other things that violate our most deeply cherished values, and covid with its anxieties and quarantines. We’ve also been hurt by events within our congregation. May we, while we look toward the future and what we might yet be with eagerness and anticipation, take time to embrace and celebrate who we are and who we have continued to be in the face of substantial odds.

In Hope and in Confidence,

~**Rev. Julia**

[\[You can read Rev. Joel’s article from the November Unigram here.\]](#)

Pastoral Care

The winter holidays, that time between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day on the cultural calendar, are a time of good cheer, family gatherings, and happy memories for many of us. But not for all of us. There is a lot of busyness and bustle, which some enjoy, others not. Covid continues to constrain our lives, and financial concerns affect many. Are you struggling with the holiday blues, anxiety, or simply overwhelm? Our Pastoral Associates—**Ron Burton, Mary Johnson, Jerry McKean, and Caroline Sullivan**—are available to listen. Of course, I’m also available in person or by phone or email.

~**Rev. Julia and the Pastoral Associates**

Roots and Wings

Interested in becoming a member of UUCM? The next opportunity to do so is coming in December. On Sunday, December 4, Rev. Joel will offer a **Roots and Wings course**, in the main office, starting at 12:30. This class is the first step toward becoming a member, but anyone is welcome to attend. The class provides information about the roots of Unitarian Universalism and invites participants to consider themes that will, like wings, carry them on their own religious journeys. The class will last approximately an hour. This class will not have an online option. However, we can offer an online version in the future, if there is interest. Those who complete the course are invited to **sign the membership book** during the service on Sunday, December 18. Any questions can be directed to **Rev. Joel** or Membership Committee chair

Ben Ewing at ben.ewing24@gmail.com.

Splinters from the Board

Eleanor Trawick, President (continued from page 1)

avoided or minimized if the search is conducted in an open and above-board way.

In our November 1 meeting, the Board agreed that the minister for the next several church years should be a developmental minister. We don't think much has changed in the congregation's situation in the year or so since we had a congregation-wide discussion and agreed to search for a developmental minister. We also don't think that the congregation is ready to do a full search for a settled minister. We would like to see some of our past divisions recede a little further in the rear-view mirror, and we would like to make more progress on our developmental goals, before calling a settled minister.

Also in our November meeting, the Board agreed that there should be a genuine search for our (possibly) new minister, including consideration of the candidates the UUA sends our way. The search committee must identify, and the Board must hire, the best-qualified person available for the job. In order to do so, we must be open to a wide variety of possibilities and we must rigorously scrutinize multiple candidates.

I have been asked a few times, "Why can't we just hire Rev. Joel and not bother with a search?" I believe that approach has too much of an attitude of just making do with what we have. The Board has a fiduciary responsibility to find the best possible minister for the position and I believe that means doing a search. If Rev. Joel is the best possible minister for the position, then we will hire him.

I have also been asked, "What is a developmental minister, and how is that different from a settled minister?" A developmental minister (DM) is a fairly new concept in UU circles. In the future there will likely be more specialized training for DMs, but right now applicants for DM positions are likely to have trained either to be settled ("regular") ministers or interim ministers—and indeed they will probably apply for those other sorts of positions as well as for DM ones.

The big difference between a DM and a settled minister is that the DM is hired by the board, not "called" by the entire congregation after an intensive weeklong visit. The DM is hired to a contract of three to five years (renewable), or to a series of one-year contracts, and it is understood that their role is, in addition to doing all the other jobs of a minister, to help the congregation work on particular areas that the congregation has identified as needing growth or change.

Just to review, our five developmental goals (identified by the previous Board last year) are:

1. increase trust, mutual respect, and encouragement in the congregation
2. optimize our use of both professional staff and volunteers
3. reinvigorate our social-justice advocacy and engagement with the community
4. deepen our understanding of religious histories and diversity within the congregation
5. create plans to care for our building and preserve it for future generations

(I have shortened and paraphrased somewhat for reasons of space.)

A DM is a *real* minister. Working on the developmental goals is only a part of their job. Like any minister, they are tasked with leading Sunday worship, providing pastoral care, working with the Board to provide leadership to the congregation, serving as the public face of the congregation, acting as chief of staff, and probably more tasks that I'm forgetting about!

There is lots more to say about our search for a developmental minister. Let's have some conversations at the Town Hall Meetings later this month.

Eleanor

December 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



December Meetings & Events

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

Stewardship Committee	Friday	Dec 2	12:00 pm
Tree Trimming Party	Sunday	Dec 4	12:00 pm
Pastoral Associates	Sunday	Dec 4	12:00 pm
Roots & Wings Class	Sunday	Dec 4	12:30 pm
Board of Trustees	Tuesday	Dec 6	7:00 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	Dec 7	7:30 pm
Santa Lucia Bun Baking	Saturday	Dec 10	1:00 pm
Ministerial Search Q&A (in person)	Sunday	Dec 11	12:00 pm
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	Dec 15	7:00 pm
Ministerial Search Q&A (zoom)	Sunday	Dec 18	12:00 pm
Church Office closed for holiday break December 23 – January 2			
Unigram submissions due	Tuesday	Jan 3	9:00 am

UUCM Office Schedule

Monday

1:00 – 4:00 pm

Tuesday- Friday

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

The office will close for holiday break beginning Friday, December 23, and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

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 Tuesday, January 3. Please send as attached Word docs to uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org

Tree Trimming Party

Following the service on Sunday, December 4, please join the Fellowship Committee in decorating the Christmas tree in the sanctuary. There will be cookies!!!! All are invited!



Saffron Bun Baking

Please join us at church Saturday, December 10th, at 1:00 pm, to make Saffron Buns for our Santa Lucia service. No experience is necessary, we will gladly teach.

Questions contact **Kate Murray** 729-0599.

UUCM Staff & Leadership

Staff

Rev. Dr. Joel Tishken, Acting Minister
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Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 4:00 pm | Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

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