



the UNIGRAM

Reflections on Love



The following material comes from the Soul Matters February 2023 packet on Love. May you find greater love and benefit from these Questions, quotations, videos, and podcasts.

Questions

Consider writing about one or more questions. Perhaps you might benefit from asking yourself some of the questions. Or there may be good conversations to be had from asking them of others. May you benefit from the questions.

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♥ UUCM Today and Tomorrow *Sue Errington, Stewardship Committee*

I've been coming to the church for around 50 years. My daughters, Sara and Amy were just babies at the time. Religion has a huge impact on our culture so I wanted the girls to know about it. Attending our religious education program gave them not just one perspective but many. It far exceeded my original expectations. The girls eventually moved away from Muncie but I'm still here. I've made UUCM my church home.

The list of reasons why I love this church keeps growing over the years. Many of the reasons relate to the tenants of the 7 principles.

Nobody tells me what I must believe. There's no creed that I pledge to follow. Instead, we have the 4th principle: a free & responsible search for truth and meaning.

I was here when we became a welcoming congregation. We went through months of education and discussion that ended with a vote to fully embrace our 1st principle of recognizing the inherent worth & dignity of every person and the 2nd principle of acceptance of one another.

I cherish the services that give us glimpses into our past with quotes and references to early UUs like Ralph Waldo Emerson, William Ellery Channing, and Susan B. Anthony. Or services involving our local history: hearing how our founders first met in their

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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 A Better Way.
The offering will be collected March 5 & 12.*

March 5 – “The Phallacy of Sexual Selection” Rev. Joel Tishken

Emerging science is suggesting that our understanding of gender among animals has gotten it wrong. Early evolutionary biologists projected their own gender norms onto Nature and it has impacted our understanding of animals and ourselves ever since. Join us as we explore the impact culture and patriarchy has on biology and zoology and what this means for animals and us.

March 12 – “Small Kindnesses” Rev. Forrest Gilmore

In the movie, the Hobbit, the lead character, Gandalf, says, “I have found that it is the small everyday deed of ordinary folks that keep the darkness at bay. Small acts of kindness and love.” After several years of struggle, I find myself reminded of the gentler aspects of life. Kindness is an overplayed theme in our words but an underestimated power in our actions. Today, we'll explore those everyday moments that make a small but significant difference in our lives.

March 19 – “The Decline of Rational Language” Rev. Joel Tishken

March 26 – “What If...?” Rev. 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 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.

Service Auction 2023

The 2023 Service Auction will take place online from **Thursday, May 4 to Saturday, May 6**. We will again be using Auctria to host our online auction with an in-person celebration lunch on Sunday, May 7. Our goal this year is \$4,000... Pshh, we can do that!

Donations

A hosted event? A pool party? A service like leaf raking, child/pet care, light cleaning? A home cooked meal? Fresh bread? Lessons? Tech Support? The list of ideas is **endless!** *Check out the ideas generated by your fellow community members below.* Donation sheets are live now and needed by April 21st. Click [here](#) to access the digital donor sheet.

Ideas

Don't know what to donate but definitely have a need for something? A pile of clothes in need of ironing? Windows washed? Two weeks of lawn mowing? **We want those, too!** Email a team member with your idea and we'll see if we can find someone to donate that item/service to our auction. Check out the ideas already proposed:

- Ironing services
- Dakota bread
- Chex mix
- Food demos
- Road rally
- Freezer meals
- Sophie's granola bars
- Parents day off/out
- Lawn mowing while on vacation
- Propagated baby plants
- Painting experience

Drop-in Sessions

Drop-in sessions with our team will be after service on March 19, March 26, and April 2. This time is to discuss your ideas for donations, ask questions about any part of the process, or share ideas of items/services that YOU want to see. We'll do announcements during services so you know who to look for that day.

If you have any questions, reach out to your service auction team!

Denise Ewing, chair dewing218@gmail.com, **Jean Filson** jfilson44@gmail.com,
Shonet Martin shonet1@sbcglobal.net, **Susan Taylor** susantaylor68@hotmail.com

Reflections on Love (continued from page 1)

1. What did love mean to you as a child?
2. How have you changed *your mind* about love?
3. How has love changed as you've gotten older? Is it softer? Quieter? Larger? Tougher? Smaller? Sneakier? More central? More painful?
4. Whose love has companioned you the longest?
5. Has love ever made you smarter?
6. Some say the opposite of love is not hate but [indifference](#). Others say its opposite is [fear](#). What do you say?
7. Are you using your busyness to shield you from your heartbreak?
8. Is it time to let someone know that your heart is broken?
9. Is it time to offer "tough love"?
10. Is it time to offer "sacrificial love"?
11. Is someone trying to offer you love but you don't notice it?
12. Are you turning your back on love?
13. Are you sacrificing too much in the name of love?
14. What might it mean to regularly ask, "What would love do here?"
15. Is love ever separate from the feeling of home?

Wise Words

Love is the quality of attention we pay to things
J.D. McClatchy

Love is what we are born with. Fear is what we learn. The spiritual journey is the unlearning of fear and prejudices and the acceptance of love back in our hearts.

Marianne Williamson

We have not come into this exquisite world
 To hold ourselves hostage from love.
 Run my dear,
 From anything
 That may not strengthen
 Your precious, budding wings.

[Hafiz](#)

To love a person is to learn the song
 That is in their heart,
 And to sing it to them
 When they have forgotten.

Arne Garborg

Love can change a person the way a parent can
 change a baby—awkwardly, and often with a great
 deal of mess.

[Lemony Snicket](#)

The only obsession everyone wants: 'love.' People
 think that in falling in love they make themselves
 whole? The Platonic union of souls? I think
 otherwise. I think you're whole before you begin.
 And the love fractures you. You're whole, and then
 you're cracked open.

Philip Roth

Your task is not to seek for Love, but merely to seek
 and find all the barriers within yourself that you
 have built against it.

Rumi

When we understand love as the will to nurture our
 own and another's spiritual growth, it becomes clear
 that we cannot claim to love if we are hurtful and
 abusive. Love and abuse cannot coexist.

[Bell Hooks](#)

Never forget that justice is what love looks like in
 public.

Cornel West

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Reflections on Love (continued from page 4)

Love takes off the masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within. I use the word 'love' here not merely in the personal sense but as a state of being, or a state of grace—not in the infantile American sense of being made happy but in the tough and universal sense of quest and daring and growth.

James Baldwin

Never love anyone who treats you like you're ordinary.

Oscar Wilde

We accept the love we think we deserve.

Stephen Chbosky

I love you, not only for what you are, but for what I am when I am with you.

Roy Croft

Loving you is like being 10 years old again, scaling a tree with my eyes bright and skyward, wanting only to get higher and higher, without a thought of how I would get back down.

Lang Leav

Find those who tell you Do not be afraid, yet stay close enough to tremble with you. This is a love.

[Cole Arthur Riley](#)

There are days I drop words of comfort [and love] on myself like falling leaves and remember that it is enough to be taken care of by myself.

Brian Andreas

How you love yourself is how you teach others to love you.

[Rupi Kaur](#)

Loving only ourselves is escapism; loving only our opponents is self-loathing; loving only others is ineffective. All three practices together make love revolutionary, and revolutionary love can only be practiced in community.

[Valarie Kaur](#)

Videos & Podcasts

Why Romantics Are Ruining Love

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2v8TywXjLA>

How Does Love Affect the Brain?

<https://www.npr.org/2019/11/22/780960553/helen-fisher-how-does-love-affect-the-brain>

A Queer Vision of Love and Marriage

https://www.ted.com/talks/tiq_milan_and_kim_katrin_milan_a_queer_vision_of_love_and_marriage?language=en

It Is Entirely Possible for a Black Girl to Be Loved,
Ashley M. Jones

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wy_XyUplazU

How to Learn My Love Language

On sign language, spoken language & how love shows us what is possible

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/05/podcasts/modern-love-sign-language.html>

When Love Arrives - Spoken Poetry

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPG6nJRJeWQ&t=16s>

Exit Strategy

<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/779/ends-of-the-earth/act-one-9>

A beautiful story of Alzheimers and letting go as a final act of love.

The Empathic Civilization, an Animated Talk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7AWnfFRc7g>

On the challenges and necessity of extending love to all of humanity.

Free Hugs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hN8CKwdosjE>

Why don't we all hand out love more freely?!

❤️ UUCM Today and Tomorrow

Sue Errington (continued from page 1)

homes, then build a church downtown that had the tallest steeple in the city and how we came to build this church in the woods. At the time of our 150th anniversary, we had a Sunday service picnic in Beech Grove cemetery and toured the gravesites of early UUs buried in there.

I love our church setting. When I come into the church and sit down in the sanctuary, I can look out at the woods. It's a physical reminder of the 7th principle: the interdependent web of life.

Our heritage here involves the principles we stand for as UUs and UUCM members. Putting my pledge in the box today is the act of pledging to continue enriching my life through this church and to make sure it is here for others now and in the future.

Sue shared this testimonial with the congregation on Stewardship Sunday, February 5.



Sharing Gratitude

A huge heart-felt thank you to the many people who contributed to the recent pledge drive. We had two wonderful Sunday services dedicated to stewardship. Thank you to Rev. Joel for his inspiring sermon and creative work in crafting both services; to worship associates Diane Hill and Karen Moorman for thoughtfully guiding us through the services; to Jim Helton, Ric Dwenger and the choir for uplifting music; to speakers Eleanor Trawick, Sue Errington, Susanne Hinson-Rieger, Sophia Taylor, and Lynn Sousa for their personal, loving reflections; to Elsbeth Fritz for helping the children with “I Spy” and providing prizes; to our Sights & Sounds and Zoom teams for making sure we can all hear and participate: Ben Ewing, Jay Moorman and Brian Reed; to the Fellowship team for delicious treats in the “lobby” – Kirk Robey, Susan & David Calvin, Sue Errington, Beth Gonser, and Susan Magrath.

Thank you to Christie Williams for all her behind-the-scenes support. She's always there with answers to questions, technical help, getting materials printed, recording pledges, and too many random yet essential things to count! We couldn't function without her.

To Jennifer Parks-Strack for lending her professional expertise to the committee, and to Sue Errington for volunteering even though she knew the pledge drive would happen during the legislative session – I cannot thank them both enough for being part of the team. And a committee alum stepped forward to help with follow-up – thank you, Bea Sousa!

And to all of you at UUCM who attended, read, listened, responded & pledged, THANK YOU! We only exist as a community with a building, staff, and programs because you give. I Heart You!!

Gratefully,

Holly Hanauer, Stewardship committee chair

March 2023 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



UUCM Office Schedule

Monday

1:00 – 4:00 pm

Tuesday- Friday

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

The office will be closed Friday, March 10.

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, March 22.

Please send as attached Word docs to

uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org

March Meetings & Events

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

Worship Associates	Wednesday	March 1	7:30 pm
Soup Lunch	Sunday	March 5	12:00 pm
8 th Principle Discussion	Sunday	March 5	12:00 pm
Board of Trustees	Tuesday	March 7	7:00 pm
UU Book Club	Thursday	March 9	7:00 pm
Church Office Closed	Friday	March 10	
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	March 16	7:00 pm
Unigram submissions due	Wednesday	March 22	9:00 am

Discussion of 8th Principle

This Sunday, March 5, please join **Eleanor Trawick** in the Indigo Room after the worship service for a discussion of the 8th Principle. (See Eleanor's article in the [February Unigram](#).) Should UUCM adopt the 8th Principle as a congregation? What would it mean for our church to commit to antiracism and deep multiculturalism? Come with your thoughts and questions and enjoy a soup lunch.

Let's Do It! Soup Lunch This Sunday, March 5th

Join us for a soup lunch THIS SUNDAY (March 5th). We've got 4 soup-cooks lined up; **Kirk Robey** is baking bread that morning; fresh fruit; a nice mixed salad; and cookies have been promised. ***Still seeking a few kind souls to help with kitchen clean up!*** Contact **Denise Ewing** at dewing218@gmail.com to offer assistance! A basket for free-will donations will be available. And, since your belly has been promised scrumptious goodies, don't forget to join Eleanor for the 8th Principle discussion in the Indigo Room!

UUCM Staff & Leadership

Staff

Rev. Dr. Joel Tishken, Acting Minister
joel@uuchurchmuncie.org

Rev. Dr. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister
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Susanne Hinson-Rieger, Acting Dir. of Religious Education
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Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 4:00 pm | Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

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