



the UNIGRAM

Searches Are Concluded!

We are happy to announce that **Jesse Daniel** will be our new Director of Lifespan Religious Education (DLRE), and **Rev. Joel Tishken** will be our Developmental Minister (DM)! The respective search committees have forwarded these two names to the Board of Trustees, the Board has made offers, and those offers have been accepted. (We are still in the process of working out contracts.) More updates and information will be coming soon.

Many thanks to the search committee for the DLRE: **Jay Moorman, Susan Taylor, and Rev. Joel Tishken**. And many thanks to the search committee for the DM: **Steve Chalk, Denise Ewing, Holly Hanauer, and Ben Strack**.



In This Issue

<u>Sunday Schedule</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Service Auction</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Sharing Gratitude</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Calendar</u>	<u>5</u>

An Affirmation of Community

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Community Minister

I've been thinking about our upcoming ritual celebration of my ordination on April 16th. No surprise there! It's led me to reflect back on my experience of ministry so far, and to reflect about what ordination to the Unitarian Universalist ministry means. By way of a reminder, and because I have trouble keeping this firmly in my own mind, this upcoming celebration isn't what ordains me. It celebrates what you all as a congregation already did in the congregational meeting on October 23rd when you voted to ordain me. In our polity, the congregational vote is what ordains. This isn't at all to downplay the celebration—I am anticipating it very eagerly!

Ordination is an act of a religious community, a community coming together to officially affirm someone's ministry. It's a way of a community recognizing and expressing its relationship with an individual. Religion, as I look back at my life, has always been about relationship and community. It's always been about the "horizontal" relationship among people, albeit lived out against the background of that mysterious web of being which holds us all. Being a part of a community of faith has for me always been about welcome, community, acceptance, belonging.

(continued on page 4)

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 Red-Tail Conservancy.

The offering will be collected April 2 & 9.

April 2 – “UUA Article II” Rev. Joel Tishken

April 9 – Easter Sunday “Embodiment” Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer

April 16 – Rev. Julia’s UU Ordination Celebration Rev. Joel Tishken

April 23 – “UUs, People of Creative Spirit” Rev. Bruce Russell-Jayne

April 30 – “Is Everything Conscious?” Dr. Kevin Purrone

Ancient pagan belief embraced the existence of spiritual entities who manifest in natural objects. These entities, sometimes called gods, are in forests, rivers, storms, trees, animals, plants, stars and planets, potentially imbuing everything. This idea of pervasive spiritual presences is not too different from recent ideas about consciousness which are being discussed by neuroscientists, cognitive scientists, biologists and philosophers. Dr. Purrone will first explore an overview of pagan thought, its contemporary resurgence, and then its connection to modern ideas of consciousness.

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

Check out the ideas submitted! Get those donor forms turned in!

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. Join us after service (around noon) for a light meal – many auction items will be available for pick up! The online listings will be available to view by April 28 at charityauction.bid/UUCMauction.

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.**

If during the auction you look through the website and don't see any offerings that pique your interest, you can just make an online donation through the "Donate" tab. It will count towards the total raised by the auction. Watch that thermometer move!

Registration

If you created a bidder account in a previous year, your account is still available. Try logging in ahead of time to make sure you remember the password! If you are new this year, register for a bidder account online at: charityauction.bid/UUCMauction. You will not be able to bid without an account. *(If you do not have computer access or are unable to place online bids, contact Denise Ewing and we can help you make bids via proxy.)*

Catalog & Bidding

You can both look at the catalog and make your bids at charityauction.bid/UUCMauction! As items get entered, you can check the website to see the catalog.

Bidding will work a lot like eBay. If you are interested in an item, you place a bid through your account. To make it super easy, you can set a maximum price you're willing to pay and it will automatically increase your bids for you! Otherwise, you will receive an email when you are outbid.

The *Buy It Now* feature will be active! If you love an offering and don't want to compete in the bidding process, just "Buy It Now" and it is yours!

We have had a lot of hot items that were gone in mere minutes! So don't miss out - *Buy It Now!*

Check Out

When the auction is over, you will receive an email with the total amount that you owe and what items that you won. If you entered your credit card during the registration process, it will be super easy to check out. You will also be able to pay via PayPal or check.

** If you need technical assistance during the auction, please reach out to **Denise Ewing** via email or by phone: 317-650-0831, uucmfundraising@gmail.com.

An Affirmation of Community

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

When I reflect back over the last several decades (!) I see a long history of ways in which I've been doing ministry. When my daughter's father was in the military, I was the religious education director for the post chapel. My time as a hospital chaplain at Ball Memorial overlapped with my faculty tenure at Ball State and extended into my retirement from teaching. Right from the beginning, that position felt "right," like a perfect fit. I was at home with it.

Some of my most cherished memories from my time teaching at Ball State are of my relationships with those students who sought me out because they saw me as someone safe to talk with about nonacademic concerns, those who reached out to me as a mentor and confidant and yes, as a pastor.

My time on the staff here at UUCM as your Community Minister began in 2010 and overlapped with both my teaching and chaplaincy careers. It's gone through various iterations, all of which have been both challenging and meaningful. Briefly, at the beginning nearly all my ministry was teaching, chaplaincy, and writing, with very occasional service to our congregation. It's evolved gradually but steadily into greater responsibilities in the congregation, and now most—although not all—of my ministry is with and to our congregation.

This is why my ordination as a UU minister by this congregation feels huge, feels different. I've been ordained as an interfaith minister since 2004, which validated my ability to apply my seminary education and experience to minister in interfaith contexts. Your vote to ordain me to the UU ministry was the act of my own beloved community of faith affirming that I have ministered among you and choosing to exercise your congregational authority to affirm that through ordination.

Most typically, ordination happens at and marks the beginning of a person's ministry. Mine comes after many years of active ministry, well into what already has been a fulfilling career. It also comes closer to the end of that career than to its beginning. This is not at all a veiled hint that I'm about to retire, but simply a recognition that I am, after all, in my 8th decade on this planet! It is especially meaningful because it is an affirmation of what I have done and am doing among people who experience me as a minister. This gives it a deeper meaning and significance for me than what it probably would have had at the beginning.

As I have reflected on these things, I discovered a quotation that has become a touchstone for me, and I want to share it with you at this significant time:

In ancient times, the word *ministry* meant to serve. Universalist minister Gordon McKeeman claimed that ministry is a quality of relationship between and among human beings that beckons forth hidden possibilities and invites people into deeper, more constant, more reverent relationship with the world and one another. If we hold his words and the original definition of ministry to be true, to minister means to serve and bring forth the best in each other. (Rev. Don Southworth)

As we mark this significant milestone in our relationship, this is my hope for us all.

~Rev. Julia

April 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

April Meetings & Events

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

Pastoral Associates	Sunday	April 2	12:00 pm
Board of Trustees	Tuesday	April 4	7:00 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	April 5	7:30 pm
UU Book Club	Thursday	April 13	7:00 pm
Rev. Julia's UU Ordination & Celebration Lunch	Sunday	April 16	10:45 am
Unigram submissions due	Wednesday	April 19	9:00 am
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	April 20	7:00 pm
Kitchen Cleaning	Saturday	April 22	10:15 am



UUCM Office Schedule

Monday

1:00 – 4:00 pm

Tuesday- Friday

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

The office will be closed Friday, April 14.

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, April 19. Please send as attached Word docs to uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org



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

I want to send my gratitude to all those who helped, in various ways, during my recent health scare. It's a great comfort to know I have such a thoughtful, robust village at my back. A note in response hardly suffices, but it's a start. Thank you, thank you!
~Steve Chalk

Ordination Celebration

Please note that a special service to ritually celebrate the Ordination of **Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer** will be Sunday, April 16, at 10:45 am. Join us for this special moment in the ministry of Rev. Julia and the life of this congregation. A special meal will follow the service. More details on that to come.

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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