



the UNIGRAM

June Service Preview

Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Chaplain

I have the privilege of preaching twice in June, on June 11th and June 25th. I'm using my Unigram column for this month to preview those two services.

We will celebrate our annual *Flower Ceremony* on June 11th. Incidentally, both "Flower Communion" and "Flower Ceremony" have been used over the years to name this service. This celebration has a long history in our congregation, and a long and inspiring history in the Unitarian Universalist movement. And this is a special year for the Flower Ceremony. We will join UUs around the world (not all on this particular day, however) in recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Flower Ceremony. On the 11th, we'll be participating in a century-old tradition!

You can expect some familiar elements, some changes, and some things that will be specific to this historic year. The UUA has made several resources available, and we'll be incorporating some of those, which other congregations will be doing as well. If you have flowers available, please bring some! What *won't* change is our offering of flowers to one another.

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How Can We Pay for Our New HVAC System?

Eleanor Trawick, President

At a special congregational meeting, to be called later in the summer, the congregation will vote on whether to select Option 1 for our new HVAC system (less expensive, relying on gas furnaces for heat) or Option 2 (more expensive but more environmentally friendly, relying on electric heat pumps). But Option 2 is *very* expensive: \$510,000 is a possible figure for the whole project. Could the church even afford to do it?

Kirk Robey and I put our heads together and came up with some numbers that we think would work.

The numbers here are estimates; this is more of a thought-experiment at this point than an actual plan, but once we have a solid estimate from the company that we have selected to do the work, we believe that the Board will be able to come up with a realistic plan. The numbers that I will present here assume that the congregation will select the more-expensive option but, of course, if we select the less-expensive option we will be able to scale back the numbers proportional to the lower cost.

Our thought-experiment has three parts to it. (1) Spending some money that we already have in our various accounts; (2) Raising money from the congregation; (3) Borrowing money.

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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 YWCA of Central Indiana.
The offering will be collected June 18 & 25.*

June 4 – “Beauty and the Body” Rev. Joel Tishken

Much individual and collective suffering results from our culture’s notions of beauty and body image. That suffering is on the rise and is producing a mental health crisis in younger people. Join us as we question and challenge cultural norms about beauty and bodies.

Trigger warning: The sermon will be discussing matters of body image and body dysmorphia. However, the overall message is one of beauty and body positivity and acceptance.

June 11 – Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Flower Ceremony Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer

See Rev. Julia’s article on [page 1](#) for details about this service.

June 18 – “YWCA Is on a Mission” WaTasha Barnes Griffin

June 24 – “Leaving, Loss, Letting Go, and What Might Remain” Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer

See Rev. Julia’s article on [page 1](#) for details about this service.

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 Director of Lifespan Religious Education, **Jesse Daniel**, at jesse@uuchurchmuncie.org.

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.

Meet Jesse Daniel, Our New DLRE!

Welcome to our new Director of Lifespan Religious Education (DLRE), **Jesse Daniel**! Her contract began June 1. DLRE is a new staff position at UUCM and includes responsibilities for religious education and faith formation in all forms and for all ages. Jesse will be seeking input from the staff, board, and congregation about how to best prioritize those responsibilities and be the most effective she can in this new role.

Like you, I am excited to have Jesse join our staff. I am fully confident she'll be making lots of good things happen at UUCM. Welcome aboard Jesse.

Please find below an introduction written by Jesse.

Rev. Joel



My husband and I have the joy of living with our two teenagers, Caitlyn and Carter, and our two dogs, Birdie and Steven. (That sentence can be read with heartfelt sincerity or complete sarcasm, depending on the day.) If I thought I could get away with it, I would survive on coffee, dark chocolate, and cherry tomatoes straight from the garden. I love a road trip, possibly because my parents moved us to and from Seattle in a VW van and a rented U-Haul. I've spent the last fifteen years teaching middle and high school English and am passionate about supporting our teachers and protecting public education.

I wouldn't have taken the leap of applying for the DLRE job without the encouragement and support of one of my oldest friends, Kate, whose family is also the reason my family started attending UUCM in 1989. I was dedicated in the church, took my first flight when I was Boston Bound, slept in the sanctuary during teen lock-ins, and was married in the church. Returning to the congregation in this new role feels like coming home in a lot of ways. I cannot wait to get started!

~Jesse

"Nobody really does anything alone... it is only by inducing others to go along that changes are accomplished and work is done."

Eleanor Roosevelt

June Dedicated Offering: YWCA of Central Indiana

Founded in 1910 in Muncie, [YWCA of Central Indiana](#) works to eliminate racism, empower women, promote social justice, help families, and strengthen the community it serves.

The YWCA offers an emergency shelter for women and children that includes wraparound services, as well as education in financial literacy, housing, and professional development; the C.O.T.S. Stay Program (complimentary, overnight, temporary, shelter stay); Second Stage long-term housing; facility rental space; and a resale shop. The YWCA's comprehensive services impact hundreds of local families each year.

The organization is also active in many local, regional, state and national coalitions, advocating for policies, legislation and services that positively impact women and their families and pushing for progress. The YWCA actively engages with community partners to bring about change in the areas of economic, racial and gender oppression.

The YWCA offers a variety of programming to help its emergency shelter residents in such areas as financial literacy, housing, tobacco awareness/cessation, diabetes education, and professional development, including resume building and interview skills.

Racial Justice and Civil Rights

- YWCA works towards increasing the equal protections, opportunities and human rights of women and children; regardless of color.
- YWCA participates in and facilitates racial justice programs and services that increase awareness, and transforms inequities in areas such as employment, housing, and voting.
- YWCA is actively involved in the annual Stand Against Racism campaign. Stand Against Racism builds community among those who work for racial justice, raises awareness about racism, and encourages community members to take action for change.

Empowerment and Economic Advancement

YWCA has an ongoing mandate to provide leadership development opportunities to women and girls. 76 percent of women and children served by YWCA have incomes below the federal poverty level or less, the equivalent of about \$23,850 a year for a family of four. We work to address the unique needs of those living in poverty and strive for outcomes that increase emotional and economic self-sufficiency. We provide women with economic empowerment programs, housing, health care, and career education.

Health and Safety

YWCA seeks to improve the lives of women and girls by providing high-quality health and wellness programs that are too-often not available to disadvantaged and marginalized communities. YWCA continues to advocate for increased access to healthcare and supports public policies such as Affordable Care Act expansion that would greatly benefit the women, girls, and families we serve every day.

You can make your donation in the offering basket or via text during the service on June 18 & 25. You can also mail your check to the church. Make checks payable to UUCM and note "YWCA" on the memo line.

June Service Preview

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

What also won't change is that everyone is welcome to participate, whether or not you have brought flowers.

June 25th will be a service focused on *the various layers of meaning we find in leaving, loss, letting go... and what remains*. This reflection began for me when Tom and I found out that we would not be able to return to the same house we had rented in Florida for the past eight years. (It is being sold.) It evolved from there.

It seems to me there are at least three tasks in situations that involve leaving (or being left, as in a relationship, but that's a different issue): We need to grieve the past. Even when we're leaving for a "happy" reason, a new job or a new relationship, for example, we still leave something behind. And that asks us to grieve it. We also need to reach forward with trust and anticipation toward the future that awaits us. In between, leaving asks of us that we embrace the liminal, transitional moment, the reality of change, the un-known-ness of it all.

In a recent issue of the UU Minister's Association newsletter, Rev. Darrick Jackson, Director of Ministries for Lifelong Learning, wrote this (used with his kind permission):

Lately, I have been thinking about endings. I am in the final stages of preparing to move from Chicago and saying goodbye to the people and places that have meant a lot to me over the past 11 years. Life has been busy with engaging moving companies and organizing and purging all of the things we have acquired over the years. And in the midst of all that is going on, I also want to pay attention to these last moments here. I want to take the time to notice what is happening

and experience all that comes up for me. To feel the joy and sadness around this time. And, most importantly, take time for gratitude for this period of my life.

Many of us are managing endings and transitions this time of year. Graduations are happening, and church and fiscal years are ending. We may be moving on to new jobs or positions, new locations, and other significant life changes. And amid all these transitions, it can be easy to focus on getting through and not fully experience the moments that are occurring. And so, if you are in one of these liminal moments, I invite you to take the time to be. Pay attention to what is coming up for you and what your soul is calling for right now. May this time be a blessing as you transition to what is next.

This is my hope for our congregation as well, as we soon begin a new church year, with staffing changes, physical plant challenges, and the hope and promise of the beckoning future.

~Chaplain Julia



How Can We Pay for Our New HVAC System?

Eleanor Trawick (continued from page 1)

Money in our accounts. Right now we have a large amount in our checking account. We could put \$35,000 of that into the HVAC system and still have a healthy balance. We could spend most of the Ball Fund—\$85,000—leaving \$17,000 in the account for emergencies. And we could spend \$14,000 from the Crosley Fund, leaving the \$53,000 in principal that we are not allowed to touch. This piece of the pie totals \$134,000.

Money from the congregation. Two very generous members of the congregation have said that their households could give gifts totaling \$28,000 toward the HVAC system. Additionally, the Board will ask the congregation, at the special congregational meeting later this summer, to approve a capital campaign to raise around \$125,000 over the course of a year. We would be asking pledging units to put in 50% above their 2023–2024 pledge to go toward the HVAC system. This would be a *request*, not a ransom note, and the Board is aware that not everyone will be able to do it. The hope is that enough of the congregation would be able and willing to dig a little deeper so that we could raise this money. This piece of the pie totals \$153,000.

Money that we borrow. The remaining piece of the pie is then about \$223,000, and we would need to borrow this amount, either from our own Templar Fund or from a bank in the form of a commercial loan. We are not allowed to spend down the money in the Templar Fund—about \$273,000. But the Board will look into whether it is possible to borrow from the Templar Fund, and pay it back over fifteen years or so, thus saving the interest costs of a commercial loan. Paying back a no-interest loan of \$223,000 over fifteen years would cost just under \$15,000 a year, or about \$1240 a month. By



contrast, a fifteen-year adjustable-rate mortgage at current interest rates would require mortgage payments of \$24,250 per year, or a little over \$2000 a month.

In conclusion, Kirk and I believe that the church *could* afford to select the more-expensive but “greener” option for the new HVAC system. Paying off a mortgage, or even paying off a loan from our Templar Fund, would require adjustments to our annual budget, but we think that the congregation would figure out a way to make the budget work. We also believe that we could apply for both federal grants, and grants from the UUA, to help us to pay off our loan.

Please think about these numbers, and let us know if you have any additional ideas. And think seriously about Option 1 versus Option 2, as described in the first paragraph, when you are asked to select between them at the soon-to-be-announced special congregational meeting.

~Eleanor

Sharing Gratitude

A big THANK YOU to **Denise Ewing** for being a Fundraising committee of one person this church year. Many others helped with specific fundraisers, but Denise was the overarching committee on her own. The 2022-23 budget asked fundraising to generate **\$16,000**. Not only did we meet that goal, we exceeded it by **\$6812** for a total of **\$22,812!**

~*Rev. Joel*

Thank you to everyone who donated and bid in the service auction!

Thank you to **Jean Filson**, **Shonet Martin**, and **Susan Taylor** for making the service auction happen. Go team!

Thank you to **Jennifer Parks-Strack** for helping behind the scenes with the service auction!

Thank you to **Christie Williams** for being so knowledgeable, helpful, and resourceful. The church functions because of you!

~*Denise Ewing*

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."

Upcoming Events for Fundraising

Several upcoming events still have tickets available. All proceeds go to UUCM fundraising. Contact uucmfundraising@gmail.com if interested in any of the events below.

Spring Salad Lunch in the Garden (Saturday, June 10): Two spots available, \$15 each—Enjoy a refreshing spring salad lunch amongst the lovely garden of Annemarie Voss. Both chicken and vegetarian options are available. If the weather is not suitable, a rain date will be decided on. Location: Annemarie Voss' home.

Essential Oils Sampler Party (Sunday, June 11 from 3-5pm): Four spots available, \$10 each—Curious about essential oils? Love essential oils? Come learn about essential oils and make your own customized favorite scents! You will make and take home two 10-oz. rollers and a 15-oz. room spray. You will learn about essential oil benefits and get to try out and smell dozens of essential oils. All supplies will be provided. Location: Janay Sander's home.

Izakaya Japanese Pub Dinner (Saturday, September 30 at 6pm): Two spots available, \$80 each—Come to our home to experience a Japanese pub dinner. We will serve at least six courses, including sashimi, karaage (Japanese fried chicken), sakana (miso-glazed broiled salmon), wafu sarada (cucumber, wakame and shrimp salad), nabemono (simmered vegetable and seafood soup/stew), and finally anmitsu (Mary's favorite Japanese dessert). Beverages will include sake, beer, tea, and—for those who dare—a sip of Japanese whiskey. Location: Robey's home.

UUCM Bazaar-Themed Dinner (Saturday, October 28): Six spots available, \$75 each—Imagine our wonderful bazaar as a meal! What would you choose to represent each booth category? That is the challenge Bea & Lynn Sousa and Caroline & Mike Sullivan have accepted as the theme for their five course meal on October 28. Attendees guaranteed to leave energized for the work and joy of our 2023 Bazaar in the Woods. Vegetarian options gladly supplied with at least two weeks' notice. Location: TBD

June 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

June Meetings & Events

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

Presidential Luncheon	Sunday	June 4	11:45 am
Harmonic Sound Immersion	Sunday	June 4	12:45 pm
Board of Trustees	Tuesday	June 6	7:00 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	June 7	7:00 pm
UU Book Club	Thursday	June 8	7:00 pm
Committee on Ministries	Thursday	June 15	7:00 pm
Church Office Closed for Summer Break June 16 – 25			
Unigram submissions due	Monday	June 26	9:00 am

Sunday, June 4th

Plan to stay after the service for lunch on June 4. President **Eleanor Trawick** will be serving up chicken salad and, for the vegetarians, President-Elect **Kirk Robey** has homemade hummus. The choir is supplying dessert and other parts of the luncheon.

Following the luncheon, guest musician Michelle Qureshi will offer a **Harmonic Sound Immersion** – meditation through music and sound – in the sanctuary. All are welcome. The sound immersion will be offered through zoom too. Michelle invites everyone to get comfortable for the sound immersion. Wear comfy clothes. Bring a floor mat, seat cushion, blanket, pillow... and enjoy.



UUCM Summer Office Schedule

Monday

1:00 – 4:00 pm

Tuesday- Thursday

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Closed Fridays

The office will be closed for summer break June 16-25.

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 Monday, June 26. Please send as attached Word docs to uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org

UUCM Book Club

The UUCM Book Club meets at the church on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00pm. It is informal and anyone is always welcome! If you have any questions, reach out to **Jennifer Parks-Strack** at Jennifer.e.parks@gmail.com. We will be reading the following books for the remainder of the year.

June: *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson

July: *Starry Messenger* by Neil DeGrasse Tyson

August: *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead

September: *The Many Daughters of Afong Moy* by Jamie Ford

October: *Dinners with Ruth* by Nina Totenberg

November: *Squeeze Me* by Carl Hiaasen

UUCM Staff & Leadership

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Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 4:00 pm | Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

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