



# the UNIGRAM

## Chaplaincy According to Us

*Rev. Dr. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Chaplain*

While I am not a newbie among you—far from it—Rev. Joel, the Board of Trustees, and I have redefined my role at UUCM to better fit with what I actually do. At the same time as you all ordained me, the Board changed my job title and description from “Community Minister,” which did not fit what I’m doing now, to “Chaplain.” The role or position of chaplain allows me to lead from my strengths while dropping off some responsibilities that were not a particularly good use of my time and gifts. So at this point, as we move into what promises to be an interesting and productive church year, I want to share with you all how we envision my role. First, however, I want to invite *your* input.

I’d like to hear your thoughts about pastoral care in our congregation. What do you need/want? How can we build on what we already have? What works and what doesn’t? You can email me ([julia@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:julia@uuchurchmuncie.org)) or call me (284-6936), arrange a Zoom call, or we can have a face to face conversation. I’m also working on a Google form for pastoral care requests and feedback.

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## Volunteering- Do What You Can Do

*Susan Bossung, President-Elect*

My sister and I are very close, even though we haven’t lived in the state since I left for college many years ago. Since we are now retired, we try to talk several times a week. We cover topics ranging from the mundane acts of life to news, our hobbies, activities, plans for the day, week, etc. Often, we share the happenings at our churches. She attends a Southern Baptist church and as you know, I am a Unitarian Universalist. That does not matter. These talks are our way of keeping close, knowing each other’s life like we have stopped in for a visit. We share our concerns, our joys, our fears, our general ups and downs. We seem to motivate each other

because when she pushed herself and joined the church choir, I then went out of my comfort zone and joined the UUCM choir. Unfortunately, she has gone through my ups and downs and knows how passionate I am about the success of the UUCM.

This Spring I was expressing my concern that the Nominating Committee was having trouble filling the 2023-24 slate. I had been approached to be the Pres-Elect. I couldn’t understand why no one was available. Maybe she was tired of hearing me bemoan the issue, but surprisingly she said, “You aren’t volunteering.” I stammered and stuttered and started with a litany of excuses. I didn’t think I

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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 UUCM's Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors (FOHN) fund.  
The offering will be collected September 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>.*

**September 3 – “Raising our HQ (Hospitality Quotient)”    Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer**

We'll first briefly review some of the how-tos of welcome & hospitality before getting into the deeper spiritual attitudes from which genuine hospitality can flow.

**September 10 – “Third Spaces” Homecoming    Rev. Joel Tishken**

Everyone who has ever had a relationship with UUCM, past or present, is invited for our first UUCM Homecoming celebration. You are invited to contribute to, and join in, a potluck meal following the service.

**September 17 – “Be Happy”    Rev. Joel Tishken**

**September 24 – “Deconstructing Patriarchy: Roman Catholic Women Priests (RCWP) and the Call to Equality”    Angela Nevitt Meyer**

Angela Nevitt Meyer is a Roman Catholic Woman Priest and co-pastor of Brownsburg Inclusive Catholic Community. She completed her seminary studies at Earlham School of Religion. She experiences her ministry as a multifaceted labor of love, justice, and human healing. Angela breaks many Catholic taboos: divorced and remarried (interreligious), queer, mom of two (one by birth, one by marriage). She works full-time as a family support coordinator in an urban NICU. For fun, she loves making music with friends, hiking, kayaking, road trips with her hubs, and playing board games with her family.

## 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 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](mailto:jesse@uuchurchmuncie.org).

## Adult Religious Exploration

**Adult Discussion Group**  
Sundays at 9:30 am  
Red classroom and 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 in the eBlast each Friday.

Zoom check-in at 9:15, discussion at 9:30 am  
<https://zoom.us/j/4326211304> Passcode: UUCm#1859 (case sensitive)

# Hi, Barbie!

*Jesse Daniel, Director of Lifespan Religious Education*

A couple weeks ago, my daughter and I went to see the *Barbie* movie. (This is not a review, but we both loved it.) Whether you've seen it or not, the movie has been inescapable. Press, commercials, advertisements- it's the summer of Barbie. As of this week, the movie has broken seventeen box office records and Greta Gerwig, who directed and co-wrote the film, just became the first woman to have a film cross the billion-dollar mark. All of that made me fall down a little bit of a Greta Gerwig-shaped internet rabbit-hole. I knew that she was responsible for writing and directing two of my favorite movies, *Ladybird* and *Little Women*. What I didn't know was that she is a Unitarian Universalist and grew up attending the Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento.

Gerwig was interviewed for the Fall 2013 issue of *UU World* about her movie, *Frances Ha*, and the decision to include the congregation the UU Society of Sacramento in the film. She discusses growing up in the church and how Unitarian Universalism continues to be a part of her life. In one section, she concedes that her parents left their congregation in the 1990s but have since returned. She explains this by saying "my mom likes to say that having a time of a 'walkabout' is almost part of being a Unitarian." As a person who also took a "walkabout" of sorts and found my way back to the church, that struck a chord with me. It's a bit of a romantic idea, right? Like finding your way back to your soulmate or something.

On the other hand, as a person who has spent a lot of time thinking about our retention rate at UUCM and how to get people to return again, I have questions. If this idea of a walkabout is inherently part of the UU journey, where is everyone? When



are they coming back? Or, to frame it differently, why aren't they coming back? Some of it is life circumstances, for sure. But that can't be the only reason people are walking away instead of having a "walkabout." In the movie, Barbie ventures off on her own before returning to Barbieland; that trip helps her to realize that the shared values and support she took for granted isn't something she can find elsewhere. She comes to realize that the people she surrounded herself with are what makes Barbieland special.

In the end, much like ending up with "the one who got away," it doesn't seem that realistic to me to assume the majority of people who've walked away from church are going to find their way back on their own. Maybe, like Barbie, they need some help getting back to where they were before. Like the residents of Barbieland, the people of UUCM offer a set of shared values and a support system that many can't find outside of this church community. As we get ready for our church Homecoming, let's all take some time to reach out and say "Hi, Barbie" to the people we haven't seen in a while. We might not have a choreographed dance number to perform, but we can remind them of all the other awesome things we do here!

~Jesse

## Talk with Your Mouth Full!

Some of you may remember **Dinner Discussion Groups** from the pre-COVID days. Those participating in the DDGs were assigned to a group of 6–8 people, who then met monthly throughout the church year, sharing a meal and conversation. The “discussions” could be somewhat organized, with a topic announced in advance by the host(s), or they could be entirely freewheeling.

It is time to sign up again: between now and the end of September there is a sign-up sheet posted in the SE corner of the sanctuary.

Dinner Discussion Groups are a terrific way to build and deepen our community. The meals are typically “organized potlucks”—and they don’t need to be confined to evening dinners. Gatherings are usually in members’ homes, but can be at the church or at other locations. Duties of hosting/organizing the gatherings rotate through the group. (These are principally adult gatherings; inclusion of children should be negotiated within the group.)

**Eleanor Trawick** and **Andy Seager** are organizing the groups this year. We hope that those who have been in dinner discussion groups before will sign up again, and we particularly encourage those who are new to the church, or to Dinner Discussion Groups, to give it a try.

Questions or comments? Contact Eleanor at 765–702–7472 or [trawick.eleanor6@gmail.com](mailto:trawick.eleanor6@gmail.com).

## 2024 Bazaar in the Woods

Hey folks, our 2023 UU Bazaar is fast approaching! It will be held Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, from 8am-2pm, and we need to think about what each of us can do to make it a success. We will need gently used clothing for the **Encore! booth**, which will be back again this year-YAY! We also need plant cuttings, garden items, etc., for the **Plant booth**, items for the **Collectibles booth**, and don’t forget those special items for the **Silent Auction**. The **This & That booth** is great for getting rid of those items that are still useful but might be better in a new home, or tools that you’ve outgrown. There is also the **Jewelry booth**, **Books booth**, **Children’s booth**, and more. The day will begin with coffee, juice, and **Kirk Robey’s** wonderful cinnamon rolls. A **Food booth** will offer some very tempting goodies and frozen meals for you to purchase and to enjoy later.

The bazaar has always been a highlight of Muncie’s bazaar season, and we want keep that reputation. If you would like to be a part, however large or small, of this event, please contact us! This is a great way to meet people and get involved in a fun and worthwhile project. Not only do we have wonderful church booths, but we also have some very creative outside vendors that come to sell their wares. We also provide music throughout the day to accompany your shopping.

Watch the eBlast and Unigram for more information. Put the date on your calendars and get ready for a special day!!

Thank you,

**Bruce & Judy Craig, and the Bazaar Committee**

[bwcraig@icloud.com](mailto:bwcraig@icloud.com) [jacraig21@yahoo.com](mailto:jacraig21@yahoo.com)

## Chaplaincy According to Us

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

Pastoral Care is “primarily a ministry of intentional and faithful presence.” (Francesca Nuzzolese, pastoral theologian, counselor). My intention is to be that “intentional and faithful presence” insofar as I am able at any given time. To hold space for whatever is happening in your life. To be a grounded and grounding presence as we walk together through the joys and troubles of your life and our shared life in this beloved community. Pastoral conversations don’t have to be reserved for life’s big challenges, either. We can share joys as well as concerns, large and small.

As I see it, pastoral care takes place within a larger context of care. Rev. Joel and I bring our professional expertise and training to this larger context. Our Pastoral Associates provide additional diversity and participate in ongoing training to enhance their ministry. The Caring Committee works closely with the Pastoral Associates to provide meals or transportation to those who need temporary assistance. What we can call “parish care” is another dimension. We have numerous affinity groups such as the choir, the adult discussion group, and our connection groups. In addition to their particular foci, however, their members provide additional care and support for one another. Finally, and very important, one of the major strengths of our whole congregation is the mutual care and concern we offer one another. All these dimensions work together to create a very caring and supportive congregation.

Let’s get down to the “how” of it. My primary responsibility is to provide pastoral care for our congregation and staff. I’m available to provide a pastoral presence and counsel in response to requests

and as I reach out to folks in our congregation. I visit members and friends of the congregation in hospitals and extended care facilities. I can help plan and officiate for rites of passage as requested as well.

This primary responsibility leads to other things, such as leading the Joys and Concerns segment of Sunday services and facilitating our Pastoral Associates team. My writing for our *Unigram* and Friday *eBlast* focuses primarily on pastorally-oriented topics. I preach about six times a year and assist with special services as requested.

As time allows, I also represent UUCM in the larger UU world through writing, attendance at meetings, and guest speaking engagements. I also provide pastoral services to members of the larger community on occasion.

I will continue to take my usual eight-week sabbatical in January through March for study, creative work, and self-care. I take one Sunday a month off, on average. As has been the case, I will be available remotely while I am away, via phone, text, email and Zoom, as well as writing.

As a general reminder, I currently don’t have scheduled office hours on site. My current office hours are by appointment. Typically, I’m available by phone or Zoom (requires prior arrangement for the link) any time during the day between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., except Friday and Sunday afternoons and Mondays, and can also schedule in-person meetings during those hours. For pastoral emergencies, of course call any time. Please leave a message with your name and phone number if there is no answer.

With anticipation for the coming year,

~*Rev. Julia*

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## Upcoming Events for Fundraising

One of our fall events still has spots available! All proceeds go to UUCM fundraising. Contact [uucmfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:uucmfundraising@gmail.com) if interested.

**UUCM Bazaar-Themed Dinner (Saturday, October 28):** Two 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



## Volunteering

**Susan Bossung** (continued from page 1)

would be good at it. I didn't want to spread myself too thin. I had held several positions in the church. I had been on the Board.

We needed new blood. I was too old. What if no one really wanted me for the position? You name it; I used every excuse in the book to explain myself. All she said was, "You CAN do it. I know you may not think you want to do it, or need to do it, but you CAN do it!"

There are a million excuses for when we don't want to volunteer, but what gets accomplished when no one steps up? If you look at all the algorithms, Yes/No flow charts and lists of Pros and Cons, you can find a reason to say NO to doing almost anything. I tried that. If I did that every time I decided to volunteer, I would never have gotten to experience some pretty exceptional things in my life. I've met some wonderful people, many of whom have become great friends. I have had some great experiences and many of the things I have volunteered for have made me love UUCM even more. This is not to say that everything is lollipops

and butterflies. I have had many positive experiences that well outweigh any of the few negative ones. The positive have been good, but the negative have made me look at myself and grow from the experience. Positive does win out every time.

When volunteering, you may not be the best at it, but you probably won't be the worst and you did try. Who should truly complain? If we all do what we CAN, while we still CAN, it will add up to a lot accomplished. If we all, as the old saying goes, "Just DO It!" we will not only survive as a church but we will Thrive. Not only as a church, but each of us will be better for it. That's what volunteering does.

So.... I said to myself, "Do what you CAN, while you still CAN." You can [light the chalice](#), help with coffee, join the group for Property Maintenance workday (this Saturday!), work an hour at the Bazaar. Just do it. I am so glad I accepted the position of President-Elect. I feel better and I made my sister happy!

~Susan

## Sharing Gratitude

The clearing out of my home of 53 years was a daunting task. I want to express sincere thanks to my UU family for helping. Quilt buddies **Beth Gonser, Cheryl LeBlanc, Holly Hanauer, Linda Hanson, and Cindi Marini** plowed through fabrics and crafts; **Mary Robey** and **Caroline Sullivan** consulted on other bazaar donations; **Bruce & Judy Craig** transported loads of bazaar items to storage and, of course, **Christie** for hours of everything. I am so grateful! ~**Nan Barber**

Thank you to UUCM Board of Trustee members for their service! **Ben Strack, Steve Chalk** and **Lisa Cox** have completed their terms; thank you for your commitment during unprecedented times of chaos and uncertainty. **Kirk Robey, Eleanor Trawick** and **Maggie Bartlett** continue serving; thank you for providing continuity and leadership. **Lynn Hale, Susan Bossung,** and **Jane Duckworth** are joining the board; thank you for agreeing to take on new responsibilities. Many UUCM members have had a turn (or several) on the board, and we all know that it is a lot of work and at times a heavy burden. May we all show our gratitude to these beloved folks for the time they have given, and support and respect their work in the future. Hopefully we have smoother roads ahead of us and fewer headaches for our leaders!

~**Holly Hanauer**

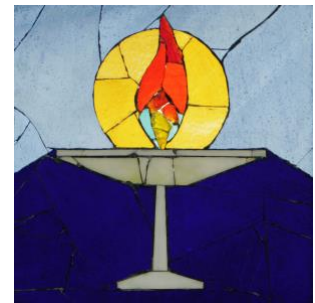
If you have a note of gratitude you'd like to share in the next Unigram, please send it to [uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org), subject line "Sharing Gratitude."

## September 2023 UUCM Calendar

Online calendar: <http://www.uuchurchmuncie.org/members/calendar/>

### Regular Weekly Events

Adult Discussion Group: Multi-Platform	Sundays	9:30 am
Worship Service: Multi-Platform	Sundays	10:45 am
RE Classes	Sundays	10:45 am
Coffee Hour	Sundays	After the service
Potluck Dinner	Tuesdays	6:00 pm
Choir Rehearsal	Tuesdays	7:30 pm



### UUCM Office Schedule

**Monday**

1:00 – 4:00 pm

**Tuesday- Friday**

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

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, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Please send as attached Word or Google docs to [uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org)

### September Meetings & Events

Property Maintenance Workday	Saturday	Sept 2	9:00 am - noon
RE Committee	Sunday	Sept 3	9:30 am
Board of Trustees	Tuesday	Sept 5	7:00 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	Sept 7	7:00 pm
<b>Homecoming Service</b>	Sunday	Sept 10	10:45 am
<b>Homecoming Potluck Lunch</b>	Sunday	Sept 10	12:00 pm
UU Book Club	Thursday	Sept 14	7:00 pm
Young Adult Luncheon	Sunday	Sept 17	12:00 pm
Pastoral Associates	Sunday	Sept 17	12:00 pm
Unigram submissions due	Monday	Sept 20	9:00 am
Parents Night Out	Saturday	Sept 23	5:00 pm

### Join the Sanctuary Choir!

As you're reading this, you've only missed one (1) choir rehearsal!! That means it's still a great time to join us! We rehearse Tuesdays, 7:30-9:00 pm, then enjoy some social time with refreshments afterward. The choir sings one Sunday per month, and on those days we warm up at 10:00 am. Childcare is available during the Tuesday night rehearsals if you let me know a day or so in advance. High school students, you're welcome to join us, too! If you have questions please reach out to me at [jim@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:jim@uuchurchmuncie.org).

#### ♥UUCM? Tell a Friend!

Have a friend who would like to know more about UUCM? Forward this Unigram so they can see what's happening, invite them to join you if the topic would interest them, or send [this link](#) so they can sign up for the weekly eBlast and monthly Unigram.

#### Young Adult Luncheon

All young adults (self-defined) are invited to a luncheon after service on September 17<sup>th</sup>, with members of the staff, board, and membership committee. We'll be providing you with lunch. We would like to hear from you about why UUCM is struggling with its generational representation. What has prompted some of you to drift away? How can we do better?

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## UUCM Staff & Leadership

### Staff

Rev. Dr. Joel Tishken, Developmental Minister  
[joel@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:joel@uuchurchmuncie.org)

Rev. Dr. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Chaplain  
[julia@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:julia@uuchurchmuncie.org)

Jesse Daniel, Director of Lifespan Religious Education  
[jesse@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:jesse@uuchurchmuncie.org)

Dr. James Helton, Director of Music  
[jim@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:jim@uuchurchmuncie.org)

Christie Williams, Office Administrator  
[christie@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:christie@uuchurchmuncie.org)

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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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