



# the UNIGRAM

## Justice & Equity

*Rev. Dr. Joel Tishken, Developmental Minister*

The Soul Matters theme for February is a dual one of Justice & Equity. Please find below a series of proverbs, quotations, and questions on these interrelated themes. The proverbs and quotations I compiled. The questions come from the February Soul Matters packet for small group ministry. You could consider approaching the proverbs, quotes, or questions in a variety of ways: as spring-boards for thought and reflection, as prompts for writing or journaling, as conversation-starters with friends or family, or as motivations for meditation or prayer. May these words offer you insight by whatever method(s) best suits you. ~*Rev. Joel*

### Proverbs

- 1) Maize can't expect justice from a court composed of chickens. ~African proverb
- 2) Where might is the master, justice is the servant. ~German proverb
- 3) Injustice all round is justice. ~Persian proverb
- 4) Justice oft leans to the side where the purse pulls. ~Danish proverb

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## What's Happening in Lifespan Religious Education (LRE)?

*Jesse Daniel, Director of Lifespan Religious Education*

We've had a (cold) but great start to our LRE Hour this month. There have been cinnamon rolls, guest speakers, lively discussion, and plenty of fellowship. And quilts! And coffee, of course. If you've braved the temperatures to come participate- thank you! If you haven't been in yet, come hang out! We'd love to see you.

Looking forward to February, we'll be offering our "big three" each week: Youth RE, Adult Discussion Group, and the Friends & Fellowship for joys, concerns, and coffee & conversation. But, we'll also be joining in the Stewardship fun with a movie screening and ending the month with a service project opportunity. I invite you to take advantage of

these new opportunities in whatever way seems most fitting for you. Here are a few other possible LRE offerings:

- Open mic
- Guest Speakers
- Movie Viewings
- Religious Interest Groups
- Parent Connection Groups
- Gaming groups (D&D, cards, Scrabble, etc)
- Committee Meetings
- Craft & Chat

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## Sunday Mornings at Our Church in the Woods

### Lifespan Religious Education Hour – Sundays at 9:30 am

Join us for our Lifespan Religious Education Hour, every Sunday at 9:30. We have three weekly offerings: Religious Education for Children & Youth, Adult Discussion Group, and Friends & Fellowship. We will also have additional groups and special offerings such as the UUCM Charity Quilt Task Force ([see page 3](#)).

### Religious Education for Children & Youth – Yellow / Blue classrooms

Youth RE will take place in the Yellow classroom during the LRE Hour at 9:30. Adult RE programming will also be available, but a child's grownups are always welcome to attend class with their children! When Youth RE is over, the group will move to the Blue classroom for snacks and fellowship while they wait for their grownups to pick them up. During the 10:45 service, all children will be in the Sanctuary with their grownups and church community. Families are invited to sit wherever they are comfortable. We have two areas designed for young families with pillows, books, and a variety of manipulatives- a carpet up front by the glass doors, where little ones can see what's going on during the service, and a tent at the back of the sanctuary near the tables. A nursery for infants and toddlers up to 23 months is available starting at 9:30 am.

For more information about our Religious Education Program, please contact our Director of Lifespan Religious Education, **Jesse Daniel**, [jesse@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:jesse@uuchurchmuncie.org).

### Adult Discussion Group – Indigo 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)

### Friends & Fellowship – Sanctuary

Join this group of friends for coffee and conversation each Sunday at 9:30 am.

### Sunday Service – Sanctuary and via Zoom

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

*February's Dedicated Offering recipient is Muncie YWCA. The offering will be collected February 18 & 25. Check out the Friday eBlast for information about each month's Dedicated Offering.*

**February 11 – “Pledgers, Popcorn, & Presence” Stewardship Party** Rev. Joel Tishken

**February 18 – “Lessons from Jonestown for Today”** Dr. Rebecca Moore

**February 25 – “Eliminating Racism, Empowering Women: Race. Gender. Justice”** WaTasha Barnes Griffin

**March 3 – “Walk a Mile in the Shoes of a Guest”** Rev. Joel Tishken

**March 10 – Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw**

**March 17 – “Letting Go of Letting Go”** Rev. Joel Tishken

**March 24 – “Hiraeth: Grief of Place”** Rev. Joel Tishken

**March 31 – “illUuminanation at UUCM”** Jesse Daniel

[Please note that topics are subject to change. Be sure to check the Friday eBlast for more detailed information about the upcoming Sunday service.]

## The Groundhog and the UUCM Pledge Drive



Why did the Stewardship Committee choose the Groundhog for the theme of our 2024-25 Pledge Drive?

- 1) It shows up every year in February near Groundhog Day
- 2) UUs have a sense of humor
- 3) Unlike ancient peoples, we're not worried about predicting the arrival of spring, BUT we do need to **predict** how much money we will have for our next fiscal year! This **forecast** is vital information for the finance committee and Board.

So....

Our Groundhog-themed pledge drive will wrap up on Sunday, February 11.

This service will be interactive with music, refreshments, an appearance by the UU Groundhog and little groundhogs, and a big box for your pledge cards.

This Sunday is our opportunity to show what we love about the Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie and for each of us to pledge the financial support to enable our church to continue its critical role in our lives and our community.

Your invitation to pledge and pledge form should have arrived in your mailbox by now. If you return your pledge form by February 11, you'll be in the drawing for a loaf of Dakota Bread! There will be four winners and you need not be present to win.

Questions? Contact a member of the Stewardship Committee: **Holly Hanauer**, Chairperson, [hbhanauer@aol.com](mailto:hbhanauer@aol.com); **Sue Errington**, [errington@comcast.net](mailto:errington@comcast.net); **Jennifer Hollems** [jhollems@yahoo.com](mailto:jhollems@yahoo.com); **Rev. Joel**, [joel@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:joel@uuchurchmuncie.org). Phone numbers are in the church directory if you prefer to call.

### UUCM Charity Quilt Task Force

On January 21, nine volunteers gathered to tie six quilts to donate to Classroom Connections, formerly the Teacher Store. Teachers and counselors come for bed and comfort quilts for students who need them. The UUCM Charity Quilt Task Force (under the UUCM Social Justice umbrella) meets the second and fourth Mondays from 6:30 - 9 pm at the home of **Cindi Marini**, to create simple quilts from donated materials. To date, the group (current members are **Cindi, Holly Hanauer, Caroline Sullivan, Bea Sousa** and **Elsbeth Fritz**) has completed over 90 quilts. There is always room for additional volunteers; no special skills needed beyond being able to sew a straight seam. Contact Cindi at [csmarini@comcast.net](mailto:csmarini@comcast.net) for more information.



## Justice & Equity

*Rev. Joel Tishken* ([continued from page 1](#))

- 5) The court is most merciful when the accused is most rich. ~Hebrew proverb
- 6) Justice knows no friendship. ~Estonian proverb
- 7) Equality is difficult, but superiority is painful. ~Senegambian proverb
- 8) If you want equality, then go to the graveyard. ~German proverb
- 9) One justice can overpower a hundred evils. ~Chinese proverb
- 10) Better to have a handful of might than a sack of justice. ~Czech proverb
- 11) Where there are poor, there are rich. But where there is justice, they are all brothers. ~Arab proverb
- 12) Everyone loves justice in the affairs of another. ~Italian proverb
- 13) One hour of justice is worth seventy hours of prayer. ~Turkish proverb
- 14) He who sows inequity shall reap shame. ~Danish proverb
- 9) Until the great mass of the people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other's welfare, social justice can never be attained. ~Helen Keller
- 10) Throughout history, it has been the inaction of those who could have acted; the indifference of those who should have known better; the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most; that has made it possible for evil to triumph. ~Haile Selassie
- 11) Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. ~Margaret Mead
- 12) I'm for truth, no matter who tells it. I'm for justice, no matter who it is for or against. I'm a human being, first and foremost, and as such, I'm for whoever and whatever benefits humanity as a whole. ~Malcolm X
- 13) For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others. ~Nelson Mandela
- 14) There are two ways of exerting one's strength: one is pushing down, the other is pulling up. ~Booker T. Washington
- 15) Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public. ~Cornel West

### Quotations

- 1) If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality. ~Desmond Tutu
- 2) I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept. ~Angela Davis
- 3) Why is it that if you take advantage of a corporate tax break you're a smart businessman, but if you take advantage of something so you don't go hungry, you're a moocher? ~Jon Stewart
- 4) Poverty is the worst form of violence. ~Mahatma Gandhi
- 5) Equity, dignity, happiness, sustainability - these are all fundamental to our lives but absent in the GDP. ~Helen Clark
- 6) Justice and equity are twin Guardians that watch over men. From them are revealed such blessed and perspicuous words as are the cause of the well-being of the world and the protection of the nations. ~Bahá'u'lláh
- 7) That which is not good for the swarm, neither is it good for the bee. ~Marcus Aurelius
- 8) Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. ~Martin Luther King Jr.

### Questions

Soul Matters suggests engaging the questions below in this way: "This list of questions is an aid for deep reflection. They are not meant to be answered as much as to take you on a journey. Read through the questions 2-3 times until **one question** sticks out for you and captures your attention. Then reflect on that question using one or all of these questions: (1) What is going on in my life right now that makes this question so pronounced for me? (2) How might my inner voice be trying to speak to me through it? (3) How might Life or my inner voice be trying to offer me a word of comfort or challenge through this question? Writing out your thoughts often enables you to go deeper. It also sometimes helps to read the list of questions to a friend or loved one and ask them which question they think is the question you need to wrestle with. A note about self-care: Often these questions take us to a vulnerable space. It is OKAY to ignore the questions that may be triggering – or lean in if that feels safe."

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## Justice & Equity

*Rev. Joel Tishken* (continued from page 4)

- 1) What was your first moment of fighting injustice?
- 2) What was your family of origin's relationship to "justice work"? How does that shape you today?
- 3) Were you a child that wanted everything to be fair? Either way, how has that childhood relationship to fairness played out in your adult life?
- 4) How do you differentiate between justice and equity? And why does that distinction matter?
- 5) How have you changed your mind about what it takes to achieve justice? What tactics seemed central earlier in your life, but no longer appear so now?
- 6) What personal or societal injustice has most shaped your life?
- 7) What have you learned about the relationship between anger and justice work?
- 8) Looking back, have you been as much of a "radical" as your younger self thought you would be?
- 9) Has art ever led to or supported your justice & equity work?
- 10) Has meditation ever led to or supported your justice & equity work?
- 11) What has most helped you heal from an injustice?
- 12) When the enormity of injustice looms, what enables you to hold onto hope?
- 13) What have you learned about balancing the competing desires to save and savor the world?
- 14) Where do you feel injustice in your body? How did that become the location where you carry it?
- 15) How are injustice and grief related for you?
- 16) How has your church changed the way you think about injustice and inequity?
- 17) What's your question? Your question may not be listed above. As always, if the above questions don't include what life is asking from you, spend the month listening to your days to find it.

## Lifespan RE

*Jesse Daniel* (continued from page 1)

In Youth RE, we are working our way through the Superhero Playbook. Each week, we learn about a superhero and make connections between our UU principles and what that superhero stands for. Then, we practice fostering that principle in ourselves and our lives. We've had dance parties, yoga sessions, Lego building projects, and snowflake crafting. My Youth RE teachers continue to knock it out of the park every week.

If you would like to join my rockstar RE team, we'd love to have you. As we continue to grow our religious education offerings, we will also need to grow our volunteer group. My Youth RE teachers are mighty, but they can't do it all! We are always looking for Adult Discussion Group leaders and other LRE program ideas, OWL volunteers and teachers, and manpower for our Youth RE programs outside of Sunday mornings. Or maybe you just want to be a storyteller for the Time for All Ages. We could use those, too.

I was in public education for a long time and know how to creatively use the materials I'm given. In other words, whatever you have to offer, I can find a spot for it!

Before I end this, I'd like to say thank you. It's been six months since I started as the Director of Lifespan Religious Education here at UUCM, and I would like to express my appreciation for all the support, grace, and patience the congregation has given me as I continue to find my footing in this new position. This has been a huge adjustment for me and my family, but one that I continue to be so grateful for.

~*Jesse*

## Sharing Gratitude

Annemarie Voss and her family want to express their gratitude to the staff and the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church for their many expressions of caring during Bill Miller's long illness and after his death. The staff, particularly The Rev. Dr. Joel Tishken; Rev. Dr. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer; Dr. James Helton, our esteemed pianist; and Christie Williams, our super competent and kind office manager—all have gone out of their way in supporting me and in planning and carrying out Bill's Celebration of Life Service.

Our thanks also go to our speakers, including Holly Hanauer, Linda Hanson, and Lynn Sousa.

Our thanks also go out to Ric Dwenger, Eleanor Trawick, and John Bartlett of the Sights and Sounds Team. A number of our family and friends were able to watch the service via Zoom. Others are waiting for the link to the recording when it becomes available.

We are equally grateful for the many members who contributed to the refreshments under the able leadership of Kirk Robey.

We are also glad that so many of you attended in person despite the chilly weather. You came to honor Bill's life, living up to our highest aspiration to be a beloved community.

*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."*



## Wheel of Life

**John Barber** died peacefully on February 1, 2024. John was the husband of Nan Barber, and Christie Williams' father. A Celebration of Life service will be held at UUCM on Saturday, March 2, at 1:00 pm.

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

## February / March 2024 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
LRE Classes	Sundays	9:30 – 10:30 am
Coffee Hour	Sundays	After the service
Potluck Dinner	Tuesdays	6:00 pm
Choir Rehearsal	Tuesdays	7:30 pm



### February / March Meetings & Events

Board of Trustees	Tuesday	Feb 6	7:00 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	Feb 7	7:00 pm
UU Book Club	Thursday	Feb 8	7:00 pm
Parents Time Out	Saturday	Feb 10	1:00 – 3:00 pm
Sunday Office Hours	Sunday	Feb 11	9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Worship Workshop	Sunday	Feb 11	12:00 pm
Pastoral Associates	Sunday	Feb 18	12:00 pm
Celebration of Life for John Barber	Saturday	Mar 2	1:00 pm
Sound Immersion with Michelle Qureshi	Sunday	Mar 3	9:30 am
Board of Trustees	Tuesday	Mar 5	7:00 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	Mar 6	7:00 pm
UU Book Club	Thursday	Mar 14	7:00 pm
Teen Group	Saturday	Mar 16	5:00 pm
Pastoral Associates	Sunday	Mar 17	12:00 pm
Unigram Submissions Due	Wednesday	Mar 27	9:00 am

### UUCM Office Schedule

**Monday**

1:00 – 4:00 pm

**Tuesday- Friday**

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

**Sunday Office Hours**

Our next Sunday office hours will be February 11, 9:00 am – 1:00 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 April / May *Unigram* are due Wednesday, March 27.

Please send as attached Word or Google docs to [uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org)

### English Tutor Volunteers Needed, No Experience Necessary!

Our New Neighbors community needs volunteers to tutor Afghan immigrants in English. English skills are essential to conducting everyday activities, as well as for getting jobs and keeping them, advancing in the workplace, making friends, and generally feeling more at home in their new country. Some ESL classes are already offered in Muncie, but due to childcare issues, transportation challenges, and/or work schedules, some people who need and want instruction are unable to attend. While both men and women volunteers are needed, women tutors are especially critical, since women in this community are only comfortable alone in their homes with other women.

I have been tutoring for nearly two years, and it is some of the most personally satisfying, enjoyable, and appreciated work I have ever engaged in. For more information, please contact me,

**Katie Williams**, at [kthxwms@gmail.com](mailto:kthxwms@gmail.com).

## UUCM Staff & Leadership

### Staff

Rev. Dr. Joel Tishken, Developmental Minister

[joel@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:joel@uuchurchmuncie.org)

Rev. Dr. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer, Chaplain

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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

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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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