



# the UNIGRAM

## Renewal

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

When Tom and I drive north through Georgia and Tennessee coming home from Florida, we usually see an abundance of Spring-flowering trees and Spring flowers, dandelions even. The air is warm and soft. Once we're back in Indiana, although Spring hasn't arrived here yet, we will get to experience it again in a few weeks. Two Springs is nice!

April and May are good months for reflecting on renewal. We are surrounded by the many amazing ways that Earth renews itself in Spring. After the rigors of this past Winter, daffodils peeking through dark brown earth, bright blossoms of crocus suddenly appearing, tentative buds on trees and grass beginning to green up are especially welcome. Pagans and Wiccans celebrate the Solstice with its promise of renewal as the year turns and the light increases. Christians celebrate Easter, and Eastern Orthodox Christians also recognize Lazarus Saturday (the Saturday immediately preceding Palm Sunday), commemorating the Christian belief that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Judaism's Passover also carries with it the promise of renewal. Even the secular world gets into the act:

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## Upcoming Guests in the Pulpit

Save the dates for these special guests to UUCM. In April and May, we'll have three services that feature guests in the pulpit. Both guests in April will celebrate Earth Day. Our guest in May will bring us a social justice topic.

### **April 14: Jim Scott – “The Year to Save the Earth” A Multimedia Experience**

Jim Scott is a composer, guitarist, and singer who creates “music for a just, peaceful, and sustainable world.” He'll be providing an entire service dedicated to the environment. Scott has been a guest at UUCM several times before. <https://jimscottmusic.com/>

### **April 21: John Halstead – “A World Full of Persons: Animism for the Religious Naturalist”**

Animists see a world that is full of other-than-human persons. For the animist, there is no such thing as inanimate matter, because it is all a part of the complex self-regulating living system called Gaia. Animism is not about the projection of consciousness or agency onto non-human things, but about respect and reciprocity within a more-than-human community.

**Bio:** John Halstead is a native of the southern Laurentian bioregion. He is one of the founders of 350 Indiana-Calumet, which worked to organize

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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.

### 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

Sip some fresh, hot coffee and share in some conversation with friends, new and old, in the Sanctuary. Work through a puzzle together, catch up about the week, or enjoy getting to know someone new each Sunday at 9:30 am.

### Sunday Service – Sanctuary and via Zoom

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

*April's Dedicated Offering recipient is Hoosier Environmental Council. The offering will be collected April 21 & 28. Check out the Friday eBlast for information about each month's Dedicated Offering.*

**April 7 – “Once in 365 Years” Rev. Joel Tishken**

**April 14 – “The Year to Save the Earth” A Multimedia Experience Jim Scott**

**April 21 – “A World Full of Persons: Animism for the Religious Naturalist” John Halstead**

**April 28 – “Reconciliation in Rwanda and South Africa” Rev. Joel Tishken**

**May 5 – “Love, Loss, and Letting Go: The Egret's Tale” Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer**

**May 12 – “Introduction to Buddhism” Rev. Joel Tishken**

**May 19 – Rev. Joel Tishken**

**May 26 – “Love Should Not Hurt” Moriah Coons**

[Please note that topics are subject to change. Be sure to check the Friday eBlast for more detailed information about the upcoming Sunday service. Please see [page 1](#) for more information about upcoming guest speakers.]

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

***Jesse Daniel, Director of Lifespan Religious Education***

As we continue to transition to multigenerational worship, let's hold these words in our minds and hearts. Everyone one of us, parents or not, are a vital part of each of our youngest congregation members' experiences. Thank you all for continuing to be a part of the UUCM village!

***It Takes a UU Village to Raise a UU Child*** by Tess Baumberger

It is important for our children  
To know that they are cared for,  
To know that they are part of a larger family,  
An important part of a bigger "human picture."  
It Takes a UU Village to Raise a UU Child

It is important for our children  
To believe in themselves,  
To trust in themselves,  
To know that they can make a difference.  
It Takes a UU Village to Raise a UU Child

It is important for our children  
To know our Unitarian Universalist principles,  
To find ways to live them in their daily lives,  
And to realize that the choices they make are important.  
It Takes a UU Village to Raise a UU Child

It is important for our children  
To be able to speak about our faith,  
To honor its history and its heritage,  
And to appreciate its heroes and heroines.  
It Takes a UU Village to Raise a UU Child

It is important for our children  
To explore religious truth and meaning  
In the Jewish, Christian, and other world religions,  
and to know that ours is a religion worth having.  
It Takes a UU Village to Raise a UU Child

It is important for our children  
To experience the Spirit of Life,  
To feel a sense of awe at the grandeur of the world,  
And to live lives of empathy and compassion.  
It Takes a UU Village to Raise a UU Child

## Renewal

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

Don't many of us feel a sense of renewal, of burdens lifted, once our taxes are filed?

I enjoy watching the goldfinches at our finch feeder, and they remind me of some important things about renewal. As the finches lose their olive green winter plumage and begin to turn the bright, glistening yellow the males will wear throughout the summer, they're all different. They are at different stages in the process, and it takes a while. Some are a rather motley collection of colors that makes them look as if they've lost in a paintball game. Like the Spring molt, renewal for us is a process as well, and it isn't always pretty. It's a process that calls on us to be patient and to let renewal proceed at its own pace, without trying to hurry it along. This also serves as a reminder to me that we need not judge how someone else's renewal seems to be happening. Especially with someone close to us, we may wish for them a faster sense of renewal or greater progress in that direction, fewer hitches and glitches along the way, but we must remember that these things have their own timetable.

Renewal may be evolutionary or revolutionary. Often, it's evolutionary, a slow and gradual development, frequently marked by surprising turns and changes of course, and often dotted by what we label as "setbacks." But it can also be *revolutionary*. Most of us probably know someone who abruptly quit smoking tobacco or abusing alcohol and never looked back. More often, though, the process is one of beginning and beginning again. We need courage and determination, and the support of a healthy community, to stay the course.

There is frequently an element of *grace* in renewal. We can open ourselves to renewal; we can make room in our lives for it, and we can hang in there when the going gets rough and failure looms. Having done everything we can do to help ourselves, we sense renewal, we sense progress, when we *least* expect it, and when nothing we have done directly brings them about. We awaken one morning after

several days of cloudy skies and drizzly rain, and the sun is shining, without our having brought it forth.

Renewal can also come about as a result of misfortune or a setback—in the wake of something taken from us rather than given up voluntarily. Your choosing to ordain me to the UU ministry was truly one of the most meaningful events of my life. For reasons that are too complex to go into here, I'm quite certain that I would not have had this experience, nor be writing monthly columns for the Unigram, nor doing any of the other amazing things I am privileged to do as your Chaplain had it not been for my late husband Mike's death. Unwanted, wholly unwelcome, and utterly devastating, it took from me the future I, and we, had envisioned. Renewal came out of it nonetheless. I was *surprised by grace*.

Finally let's remember to take time to enjoy, to celebrate, to deeply savor the experience of renewal, with all its good feelings. Let those experiences sink into our hearts and souls, where they can continue to be wellsprings of gratitude and hope. In this Spring, may we all find renewal and new life.

~Chaplain Julia



## Upcoming Guests in the Pulpit

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resistance to the fossil fuel industry in Northwest Indiana. John was the principal facilitator of “A Pagan Community Statement on the Environment”, which can be found at [ecopagan.com](http://ecopagan.com). He strives to live up to the challenge posed by the statement through his writing and activism.

### May 26: Moriah Coons, Domestic Violence Coordinator, Muncie Police Department – “Love Should Not Hurt”

Domestic Violence can happen to anyone regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender. Studies show that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 men experience sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime. However, an estimated 80% of domestic assaults go unreported. It is important that we know what domestic violence is, what it looks like, and how we can help those who are being hurt by the people they love. Everyone needs to know that love should not hurt.

**Bio:** Moriah Coons is the Domestic Violence Coordinator for Muncie Police Department. Her role is focused on providing education on domestic violence and the issues surrounding it, as well as providing victim-survivors with resources and information. She has over four years’ experience in social work in Muncie and Anderson. Moriah lives in Muncie with her husband, three foster kids, and two dogs.

## Sharing Gratitude

On behalf of the family of **John Barber**, I would like to express our gratitude to **Reverend Joel** for his help in planning and conducting John’s Celebration of Life, to **Jim Helton** for his beautiful music, to **Kirk Robey and the Caring Committee** for delicious refreshments, and to our church friends who have provided such meaningful support. What could have been a difficult transition has been made easier with help from all of you. ~**Nan Barber**

A big thank you to **Brandon Mundell** for his help in getting supplies for upcoming Youth RE programming and for the two new puzzle for the Sanctuary. ~**Jesse Daniel, DLRE**

*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.”*

## Congregational Meeting – Sunday, May 19, 12:00 pm

UUCM’s annual business congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, May 19, 2023, at 12:00pm. This will be an in-person meeting held in the church sanctuary with the option to attend via Zoom.

To be eligible to vote, please ensure that you are a member in good standing according to the following passage from our bylaws: *Our By-laws define voting membership as follows: Article III, Section 2. Persons who have been admitted to membership for at least thirty (30) days, who make a financial pledge to the church and make a good-faith effort to pay it, who donate their time and services, and who attend church services and activities are deemed to be voting members with all rights and privileges. Members who by reason of health have not been able to participate in church affairs and members who by reason of financial hardship have not been able to make a monetary contribution, are nonetheless viewed by the church as being members.*

Please note that a contribution of record for the 365 days preceding this meeting must be received by the church office by 4:00 pm, Monday, May 13, to fulfill the financial contribution requirement.

The agenda for this meeting will include the 2024-25 budget, election of officers for the 2024-25 Board of Trustees, and more. The agenda will be set at the April 30 meeting of the Board of Trustees, and will be announced in the eBlast on May 3, 2024.

## Welcome to the Gift of Interdependence

[from the April 2024 Soul Matters materials]

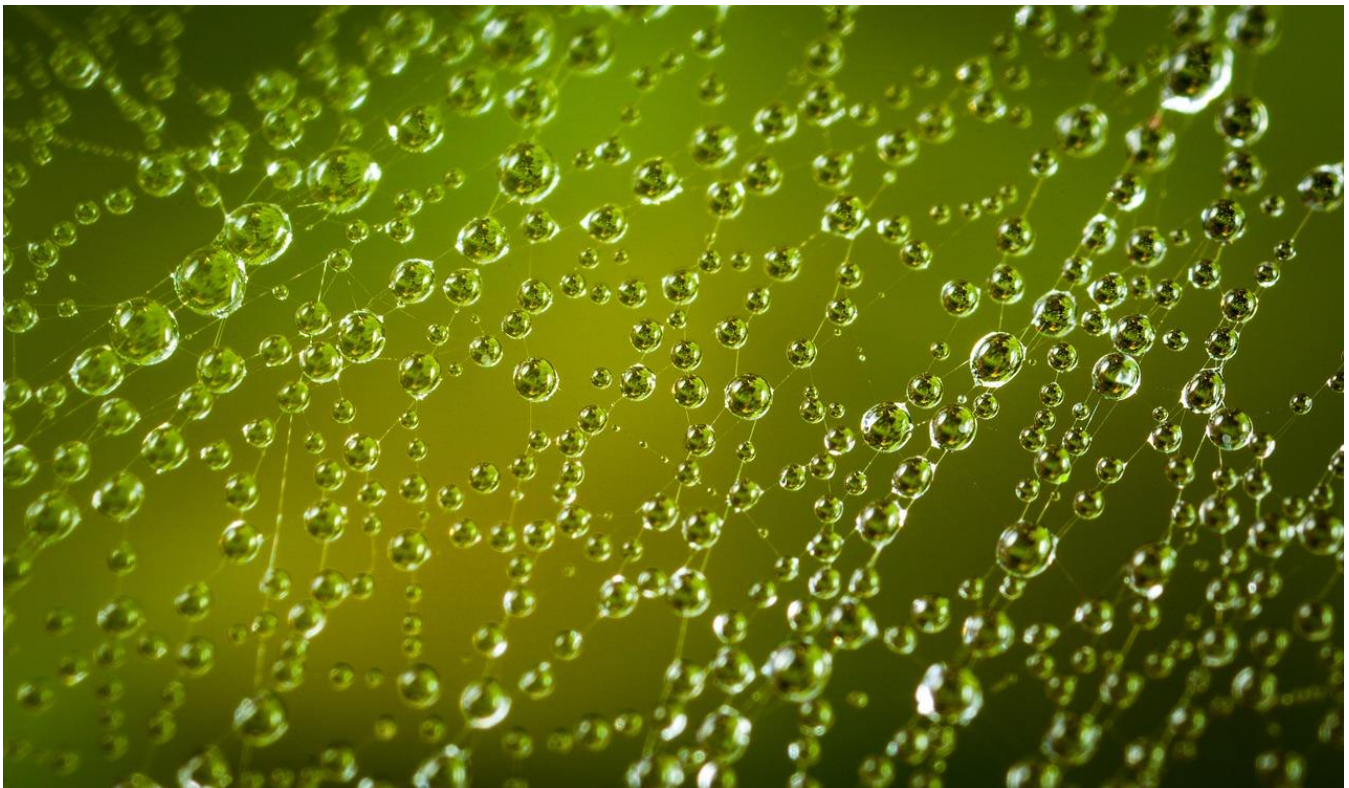
Talk of interdependence immediately calls up the work of *saving* the planet, rightly so. But what if the first step toward saving the planet is learning to *speak* to it? And hear it? Could our collective failure to confront the climate crisis be rooted in our lost ability to listen? What if the quickly-going-extinct creatures don't want our sympathy, but our ear? What if the fraying of the web isn't just about us failing to act, but also us having forgotten who we are. And what if nature itself is the only one who can help us remember?

*How monotonous our speaking becomes when we speak only to ourselves! And how insulting to the other beings – to foraging black bears and twisted old cypresses – that no longer sense us talking to them, but only about them... Small wonder that rivers and forests no longer compel our focus or our fierce devotion. For we walk about such entities only behind their backs, as though they were not participants in our lives. Yet if we no longer call out to the moon slipping between the clouds, or whisper to the spider setting the silken struts of her web, well, then the numerous powers of this world will no longer address us – and if they still try, we will not likely hear them.*

[David Abram](#)

*A human being is a part of the whole called by us 'the universe'... [But we] experience ourselves, our thoughts and feelings as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of our consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.*

Albert Einstein



## April / May 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 & Activities	Sundays	9:30 – 10:30 am
Coffee Hour	Sundays	After the service
Potluck Dinner	Tuesdays	6:00 pm
Choir Rehearsal	Tuesdays	7:30 pm



### April / May Meetings & Events

Board of Trustees	Tuesday	April 2	7:00 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	April 3	7:00 pm
Roots & Wings New Member Class	Sunday	April 7	12:00 pm
UU Book Club	Thursday	April 11	7:00 pm
Parents Time Out	Saturday	April 20	1:00 – 3:00 pm
Kitchen Cleaning	Saturday	April 27	10:00 am
Pastoral Associates	Sunday	April 28	12:00 pm
Board of Trustees	Tuesday	April 30	7:00 pm
Worship Associates	Wednesday	May 1	7:00 pm
UU Book Club	Thursday	May 9	7:00 pm
Parents Time Out	Saturday	May 18	
Sunday Office Hours	Sunday	May 19	9:00 am – 1:00 pm
<b>Congregational Meeting</b>	Sunday	May 19	After the service
Unigram Submissions Due	Wednesday	May 22	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 June / July *Unigram* are due Wednesday, May 22. Please send as attached Word or Google docs to [uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org)

### Recognizing Our Youth with Upcoming Ceremonies

On Sunday, May 5, we will be honoring our youngest readers in grades K-3 in our Age of Reading Ceremony. In this annual ceremony, our youth will travel through a special archway and receive a small gift. Please contact [jesse@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:jesse@uuchurchmuncie.org) by Monday, April 29, if your child will be participating – so that their name can be in the order of service.

On Sunday, May 19, we will be doing a child dedication as well as a celebration of our 2024 high school graduates as they begin the journey into their futures. Please contact [jesse@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:jesse@uuchurchmuncie.org) by Monday, May 13, if your family would like to participate.

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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)

### Board of Trustees

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765.288.9561 | [uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org](mailto:uucm@uuchurchmuncie.org) | [www.uuchurchmuncie.org](http://www.uuchurchmuncie.org)

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

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie

4800 West Bradford Drive

Muncie, IN 47304

