

THE FELLOWSHIP FOCUS

of the
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Elkhart

"A safe community nurturing individual spiritual and ethical growth"



September 2019

Expectation

The word expectation makes me nervous. It can be so happy and full, hopeful and bright. Or it can be the total opposite when the outcome does not match the expectation. Perhaps it is not surprising, as I speak and write about transparency and boundaries all the time, but expectations are part of that, too. If we have secret hopes and magical thinking about expectations, disappointment is possible. But if we talk about managed expectations, clarify a bit regarding how big we should be dreaming, this makes those with expectations more likely to feel happy and satisfied with the outcome.

Expectations are not the same thing as surprises.

Well, not on purpose. If you ever had certain expectations in mind and the reality was far superior, exceeding your vision, you are very lucky. This summer we put up a large pool in our yard. It took a lot of financial planning, learning about installation and upkeep, then actually doing the work. I would have told you that I fully knew what we were doing and what to expect. Until I got in and felt overwhelmed with happiness. That was a surprise, exceeding my expectations. Having a fecund imagination, I am rarely blown away by expectations surpassed. How about you?



Have you ever had expectations regarding church? Sunday morning worship? Maybe when you were new? Maybe today? Once immersed, were you surprised at how much better it was than you could have expected? My first month of UU church was like that for me, 23 years ago. Talking about expectations and managing them is very important, especially for folks who have anxiety, or for little kids, or for anybody new to the endeavor, whatever that may be.

Even after it is up for discussion, the outcome of said clarifying conversation might be "We do not know what to expect." Talk, plan, manage, be clear anyway because at least all the parties know that nobody knows what to expect. There can be camaraderie in this process.

Plan for success, expect anything. You will not be disappointed.

In peace with love,
Rev. Amy

Sunday Mornings

9am Adult Forum (Children's House)

10am Service (Sanctuary)

2nd Hour Enrichment (varies, see schedule)

Find us at:

1732 Garden Street, Elkhart, IN 46514

www.uufe.org

 /UUFElkhart  @UUFE

Youth Group

Youth Group is held the first Sunday of the month at UUFE from 5 to 7pm. Also on potluck Sunday of the month, they gather for a mid-month check in from about noon to 1. Leaders are Oxana and Zanzer, with Rev. Amy dropping in on some of the meetings. Anyone in school or home school equivalent of 7-12th grade is welcome, roughly 12-18 years.

Women's Poetry Group

We will re-convene Saturday, September 7, 10am to Noon and then run the 1st and 3rd Saturdays until further notice.

Meditation Group

The Meditation group meets for an hour at 11:30 AM on Sundays in the Children's House. We practice Breathing Meditation and Vipassana Meditation, with the assistance of Barbara Goldfarb. Other meditation techniques such as the body scan may be used. We also discuss our respective meditation practices or listen to a short reading which might apply. The sessions are free and may last a few minutes longer than one hour depending on the discussion on a given day.

In September we will meet only three times: on September 8th, 22nd and 29th. Note that there will be no meditation on September 1st due to the Ordination taking place at UUFE that day. There will be no meditation on September 15th since that day conflicts with the monthly potluck. For details contact Ken Clayborn at kclayborn52@gmail.com

Spirit Seekers, Thursdays from 4 - 6 PM

Join us in the Children's house every Thursday. All curious spirit seekers are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Jim Todd at jwttley2000@yahoo.com or 574-612-9207

UUFE Calendar

Terry Mark is managing the UUFE Calendar. We have transitioned to include more events on the uufe.org website calendar, which is found by clicking [Upcoming Events](#) or other page links. We will rely on uufe.org to track events, building rentals, etc.

To reserve for a UUFE event, contact Terry (574-361-6210).
To rent our space, contact Dwight Fish (574-536-9973).

Terry will periodically print 2-3 months ahead and post in the church office. Please do NOT write anything on the printed calendar. Additionally, if your event requires posting in the weekly email sent by Ron Gill, please notify Ron separately via email at uufeupdate@gmail.com



UUFE is a
Welcoming Congregation
member of the Unitarian
Universalist Association.

*Love is the spirit of this church
and service is its law.
To dwell together in peace,
to seek the truth in love,
and to help one another,
This is our covenant.*

The Fellowship Focus is published monthly. Members and friends are invited to submit news and photos. Send text or attachments via email to editor Jess Galicia monthly by the 15th (news@uufe.org).

Send address changes and subscription requests (email or print edition) to Katrina Wilson (katskirx@gmail.com).

UUFE
(574) 264-6525
UUElkhart@gmail.com

President of the Board
Terry Mark
574-361-6210
klagmorn@gmail.com

Minister
Rev. Amy DeBeck
574-304-1282
amydebeck@gmail.com

Minister Emeritus
Rev. Gordon Gibson
Knoxville, Tennessee

Rental Agent
Dwight Fish
574-536-9973
fish73@comcast.net

Music Listeners Group - September 15 at 4 PM at UUFE

Seven Music Listeners met at Jim Todd and Mary Adam's place on Sunday August 18. We listened to classical brass and orchestra, Brazilian and Argentine, jazz and opera. Our next gathering is on September 15 hosted by David Stokely and Doris Stickel at UUFE in the Sanctuary using the UUFE music system. The October meeting will be on Sunday October 20. We haven't determined a host yet. All who read this are invited to attend and bring up to 10 minutes of recorded music to share. If you prefer to just listen, that is OK too. If you have not been regularly attending Music Listening, please give the host a call so adequate plans can be made for seating and the light snack. David and Doris' phone is 574-522-5430.

Tai Chi Classes, Fridays from 10-11 AM

\$10 per class, focusing on Serenity, Balance & Coordination. All levels welcomed. Instructor Alyse Knepple (269-476-9509) has 25 years of experience studying/teaching Tai Chi. Contact Emily Morrison at esmorison@icloud.com for more information.

Yoga Class, Thursdays from 6-7 PM

Taught by Kristin Smith. The charge is \$10 per class - you do not have to come to all classes. Please bring a yoga mat. No prior experience needed. Yoga is an excellent program for increasing flexibility, strength and balance, as well as reducing stress. Contact TJ Shaum at 574-536-7057 for more information.

Join Rev. Amy to CLOSE THE CAMPS - Sundays from 2-3PM

Each Sunday from 2 to 3 pm along Main Street on the Civic Plaza, join Rev. Amy and others as we have a weekly witness to the immorality of the concentration camps along our southern border. Bring your own sign! Every Sunday until further notice.

UUFeasters - September 11 at 11:30 AM

We will be dining at 11:30 a.m. Please join us and let Mary Adams know, createnjoy@yahoo.com or 619-921-0613, so reservations can be made by the Monday before the lunch.

September 11 - Villa Macri, 225 Toscana Blvd., Granger

October 9 - Doc Pierce, 120 N. Main St., Mishawaka

November 13 - Bangkok Place 705 C.R. 6, Elkhart

December 11 - DaVinci's Italian Family Restaurant, 5102, 2720 Cassapolis St., Elkhart



Family Connections Night & Potluck - September 25 from 5 PM - 8 PM

Drop-ins welcome! Do you like the idea of going to church or sending your kids to Sunday school but you can't seem to work it into your schedule? Do you want to meet other liberal families? Come and enjoy fellowship and a potluck while giving feedback on how this program might work for you.

Social Justice Group - September 15 at 1:00 PM

The Social Justice Committee is working on a project to install a mini lending library at UUFE. The Friends of the Elkhart Public Library will assist in supplying books but we also encourage everyone to begin bringing books to start the library. Books that are left over will be used to supply our media table at the Ooey-Gooley auction later in the fall. The Committee also plans to install a small outdoor food pantry in the same general area at UUFE. Rev. Amy will dedicate both of these new additions at the UUFE Founder's Day Celebration on October 6, 2019. Everyone will be asked to vote on the location for the installations during the month of September. There will be a ballot box on the Ivy Island with blank ballots printed out so it will be as easy as just checking off your choice. We will start this process on Sunday September 8th so vote often, as they say in Chicago.

Science and Society - September 3 & 17 at 4PM in the Children's House

Science and Society is a program presented in the Children's House on the first and third Tuesday of each month. We are viewing the 24 lecture "Great Courses" series entitled "Writing and Civilization: From Ancient Worlds to Modernity." Dr. Mark Zender, professor of Anthropology at Tulane University, is the course leader. Information for the two sessions in September is presented below. Please join us if you are able.

Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 4:00 PM

We will view two 30 minute lectures from "The Great Courses" lecture series titled "Writing and Civilization: From Ancient Worlds to Modernity" 1. "Chinese-A Logosyllabic Script" and 2. "Japanese- The World's Most Complex Script" For details contact Ken Clayborn at kclayborn52@gmail.com

Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 4:00 PM

We will view two 30 minute lectures from "The Great Courses" lecture series titled "Writing and Civilization: From Ancient Worlds to Modernity" 1. "What is Decipherment?" and 2. "The Five Pillars of Decipherment" For details contact Ken Clayborn at kclayborn52@gmail.com

Water Ingathering - September 15 at 10 AM at UUFE

Have you attended a Water Ingathering before? In most UU congregations around the country we hold this uniquely UU ritual with no specific date attached to it. As you go through the year, visiting places of significance to you, collect a few drops of water. We all bring our little bottles of water and co-mingle the waters, adding to all of the collections from all of the previous years.

Global Climate Strikes - September 20 at 2 PM in Kalamazoo

As of this writing, it seems the closest one is in Kalamazoo, MI—here is their info. "Kalamazoo is participating in the Global Climate Strike! Around the world, people will walk out of their schools, workplaces, and homes to demand transformative action in response to the global climate crisis. Join us!" We can plan to see if anybody is going.

More information at: actionnetwork.org/events/kalamazoo-climate-strike



September Message from the Board

By Terry T. Mark

It's only been a couple months, but it's already been a busy and productive time for the UUFE board of trustees.

I wanted to tell you about the recent board retreat that we had, but not in the way that you might expect.

The retreat did include plenty of discussion about the board's vision for the next church year and what we'd like to accomplish. There were many wonderful ideas shared, and that's on top of the great things our committees already have in the works.

What I want to tell you about, though, is discomfort, and how important that feeling is for people or groups to grow.

Allow me to explain:

Part of the time in our retreat was spent on issues that happened in UUFE's past, on issues in which healthy governance was not followed, in which decisions made by the board were disregarded, in which damaging behavior was not countered in healthy ways that would bring healing.

Several of us in the retreat were a part of some of those instances and, for others, this was the first they had heard of these matters.

The point of the discussion wasn't to dredge up old wounds. It was to learn, clear the air, and find our way to healthier ways of being. What I learned from the conversation is the damage that can occur when we avoid discomfort.

In the last couple of years, the board has adopted a covenant of how we are to be in meetings, and that has served us well.

As the church year proceeds in 2019 and into 2020, the board is planning on engaging you, the members and friends of this congregation, about critical matters that will affect the future of this church.

Some of these conversations may result in discomfort, because the questions may be difficult and the answers not immediately obvious.

Notice that I didn't use any words like conflict or argument.

While we are working on our challenges as they relate to our campus, our ministry, and our budget, I expect that there will be differences of opinion. We must not be afraid of them, but we must have these conversations in a spirit of love that I know we all feel and share.

We have much to be grateful for -- a stable and vibrant ministry led by Amy but also sustained by our Pastoral Care Team, our Social Justice Committee, youth programs such as the LEGO Team and youth group, by our Science & Society, Spirit Seekers, Sunday Forum groups, CUUPS (pagans), the Broadway Meal Team, our food pantry, and our potlucks.

I'm looking forward to talking with you about what's next for UUFE.



CONGRATULATIONS!

REVEREND KEVIN DEBECK

Local Connections: Events Outside UUF

Living Legacy Pilgrimages - October 19-26 (Alabama & Mississippi) or March 25-29 (Alabama)

Visit uulivinglegacy.org for more information or to register.

William Becker Sculpture Exhibits

William is exhibiting a selection of 22 of his sculpted ceramic vessels at the Buchanan Art Center, Buchanan, Michigan, at the *One of a Kind* exhibit, running through September 21.

William has also been selected as one of 40 other artists who are participating in the Fortieth Anniversary Celebration of the Midwest Museum of American Art's, *Project 40 On 40 Mural*, displaying his one-foot-square bas relief ceramic tile as part of the collaborative art mural, on exhibit through the end of 2019.

Humanist Forum - September Events

September 5 @ 6:30pm; Doc Pierce's 120 N. Main Street Mishawaka, 46544. Ask for Rita's table.

September 19 @ 6:30pm; *Fundamentalist Pastor in Scandinavia* video River Park Branch Library.

September 28 @ 5:00 pm; Oktoberfest @ Goshen Brewing Co. Ask for Rita's table.

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9a Forum 10a Service 2pm Protest 4p Ordination Service 5p Youth Group	2 Cyan Walker	3	4	5 4p Spirit Seekers 6p Yoga	6 Jim Todd Jim Barnes 10a Tai Chi	7 Mary Perron 10a Women's Poetry Group
8 Mary Adams 9a Forum 10a Service 11:30a Meditation 2p Protest	9	10 4p Science & Society 7p Worship & Arts Committee	11 11:30a UUFeasters 6p Board of Trustees Meeting	12 4p Spirit Seekers 6p Yoga	13 Ethan Renn Wojtas 10a Tai Chi	14 Aris Hartman
15 9a Forum 10a Service 11a Potluck 1p Social Justice 2p Protest	16	17	18 Don Hershberger	19 4p Spirit Seekers 6p Yoga	20 10a Tai Chi 2p Kalamazoo Climate Strike	21 Moxie Robinson 10a Women's Poetry Group
22 Sean Wilson Madlean Koehler Jim Lindzy 9a Forum 10a Service 11:30a Meditation 2p Protest 4p Music Listeners	23 Eliza DeBeck T.J. Shaum Dane Wilson Jackie Lenczycki	24 Carolee Searles Debra Inglefield 4p Science & Society	25 Pam Mims 5p Family Connections night & potluck	26 Holly Vernon 4p Spirit Seekers 6p Yoga	27 10a Tai Chi	28
29 Oxana Werbiansky 9a Forum 10a Service 11:30a Meditation 2p Protest 4p Music Listeners	30 John Blosser					



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Elkhart
1732 Garden Street
Elkhart, IN 46514



with love to:

Our Month of “Expectation” Sundays - September 2019

September 1 **Living Purposefully**

Rev. Amy welcomes Ordination visitors and everyone with some thoughts about life, death, and after.

September 8 **Our Changing Religious Landscape**

Our free faith is changing, and others are being co-opted by politics. What can we expect as religious liberals?

September 15 **Water Ingathering**

Bring water that is meaningful to you for our yearly ritual. We will all be blessed on this day! Potluck Sunday, too.

September 22 **How Long Can We Go On?**

After the Global Climate Strikes on September 20, we look at the whole week of global actions toward future.

September 29 **Rev. Kevin’s First Sermon**

As we began the month with his ordination, we end it with his first sermon as a Reverend.