

# THE FELLOWSHIP FOCUS

of the  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Elkhart

*"A safe community nurturing individual spiritual and ethical growth"*



October 2019

## Belonging

Have you ever been in that situation at work or at school or really, anywhere, when you see a circle of people and wonder if you are welcome in their circle?

It happened recently that I was sitting in such a circle. The next day I heard that a friend would have joined but felt like the closed-ness of the circle and the body language of the people in that circle—all leaning forward, intent on the conversation—made it clear they were not welcome. I was surprised. Our circle had 2 or 3 empty chairs in it, and after my friend had walked by to join another group instead, somebody else did join the circle.

So why did the first friend not feel they belonged, while others did?

Belonging is a feeling we have inside of us. It cannot be thrust upon us; we can buy somebody a membership to something or give them a ride to a meetup, but until that person feels like they belong, they do not.

Community—intentional, covenantal community—is not magical. It takes work and we have to examine our own behaviors, feelings, and beliefs. Going from feeling welcome, or safe, or even comfortable, are gateways to feeling that we actually belong somewhere.

For instance, I attended UU church for awhile before I could say “I am a UU.”

Who do you belong to? What place is balm for your soul?

Belonging happens gradually and is not externally certified in any way—it is in the heart. We all belong somewhere, but we have to recognize it. We are the only ones who can. Then we have the responsibility of nurturing the relationship so that the place, person, or group we belong to remains welcoming to us, safe for us.

The next time you have the chance to join a group or not, you might notice that you cannot because of time or some other extraneous reason. But check on your heart—could you join if you wanted to?

May you encounter open circles and build some, too.

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](http://www.uufe.org)

 /UUFElkhart  @UUFE

# News & Events at UUFE

## Youth Group First Sunday from 5 - 7 PM

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 at 10 AM - 12 PM on Oct 5 & 19

Men and women invited to bring 2 poems by women for reading and sharing.

## Meditation Group at 11:30 AM Sundays in the Children's House

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, Other meditation techniques such as the body scan may also be used. We may 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 October we will meet only three times: on October 6th, 13th and 27th.

## 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](mailto:uufeupdate@gmail.com)

## Tai Chi Classes, Fridays from 10-11 AM

\$10 per class, focusing on Serenity, Balance & Coordination. All levels welcomed. Instructor Alyse Knepple (269-42q76-9509) has 25 years of experience studying/teaching Tai Chi. Contact Emily Morrison at [esmorison@icloud.com](mailto:esmorison@icloud.com) for more information.



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

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*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.*

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**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](mailto:news@uufe.org)).

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

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## Volunteer of the Month | August & September

Mike Darnel and Ken Clayborn did an amazing job on Building and Grounds projects and were honored as Volunteers of the Month for August by the UUFE Board of Trustees.

Mike and Ken teamed up to repair the wooden ramp to the Children's House, replacing many of the planks on that ramp and shoring up the structure. Mike also re-painted the stripes in both parking lots and came up with a new logo for the handicap spaces.



Thanks for all of your hard work. We appreciate all the ways our volunteers contribute to the life of UUFE.

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The UUFE Board of Trustees selected Carolee Searles as its Volunteer of the Month for September. Carolee does a great job of keeping our kitchen organized during potlucks and other times such as special events and coffee hours. Carolee even works behind the scenes, coming back later Sunday or during the week to put away clean dishes from the dishwasher.

Carolee is also an avid supporter of the arts, including supporting the artistic endeavors of fellow UUFE members when they are performing in concerts, plays or musicals.

Thank you, Carolee, for all you do and supporting your friends at UUFE.

### **Family Connections Night & Potluck - 5-8 PM October 16, 23 & 30**

Wednesdays in October just got great! Join us from 5 to 8pm October 16, 23, and 30 for Family Connections Night. Potluck, bring something if you can. We will keep doing this on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th (if there is one) Wednesdays in October, November, and December (4th December is Christmas Day so the meeting is earlier than 5-8pm) so that we get to know our community.

### **LEGO Robotics - Sundays at 11:30 AM in the Children's House**

Know a kid between 9 and 14 who loves LEGO and/or Robotics? The UUFE team is prepping for a November tournament, the date of which will be announced in October. We will post the tournament date when it becomes available. Super fun program, learn to work together on this year's theme, City Shaper. Look for a blurb from the coach, Kevin DeBeck and ask him any questions you have, or the leaders, Carl Rust and Laura Snow.

### **Close the Camps - Sundays at 2 PM**

Join Rev. Amy and others as they hold signs with sentiments like "Close the Camps" and "Families Belong Together" on Elkhart's Main Street. Look for us on the Civic Plaza and join our witness against the inhumane concentration camps along our nation's southern border.

### **Spirit Seekers - Thursdays in the Children's House from 3-5 PM**

Spirit Seekers is a weekly facilitated discussion group exploring a variety of spiritually related topics, often with videos. Open to all. Further information available at [uelkhart@gmail.com](mailto:uelkhart@gmail.com).

- October 3 - Jesus and Buddha (chronologically Buddha and Jesus)
- October 10 - Power and Spirit of Community ( the whole is greater than the sum of its parts)
- October 17 - Trance formation of America
- October 24 - Soul Purpose ( synchronicity)
- October 31 - HAPPY HALLOWEEN! (Samhain) Spooktacular with George Noory

### **Fall Roadside Cleanup - Saturday October 19 at 9 AM**

Meet at CVS at Johnson and Bristol Streets for assignments. If rain, re-schedule will be announced later. Questions? Contact Steve Cripe 574.370.8090 or [scripe@yahoo.com](mailto:scripe@yahoo.com)

### **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.

### **UUFeasters - October 9 at 11:30 AM**

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

- 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 Cassopolis St., Elkhart



### **Music Listeners Group - October 20 at 4 PM at UUFE**

Ten Music Listeners met at UUFE on Sunday September 15. We listened to a mix of folk, Celtic, jazz and classical orchestra and voice. Our next gathering is on October 20 hosted by Mike Darnell at the UUFE Sanctuary. Gordon Hostetler will operate the UUFE CD Player and the sound system which he is slowly learning how to do. The November meeting on the 10th will also be at the UUFE Sanctuary hosted by Gordon and Phyllis Hostetler. All who read this are invited to attend and bring up to 10 minutes of recorded music to share. The UUFE system does not handle playing less than a complete LP as the space is not conducive to selecting individual tracks, so no LPs. CDs are preferred. 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 the light snack. Mike Darnell's phone is 574-277-1396. Gordon and Phyllis are at 293-2924.

### **Contact Your Legislator About Gun Legislation Issues - Through October 6**

We have an information table set up through October 6th in the Gathering Place at UUFE to allow those who wish to communicate with their legislator a chance to contact any (or all) of the state and national representatives on gun legislation issues. There is information for both Indiana and Michigan voters. You will also find stamps and envelopes there. Please contact Judy Darnel if you have any questions: [jdarnel@gmail.com](mailto:jdarnel@gmail.com).

## **Science & Society Oct 1 & 15 at 3 PM in the Children's House**

We are permanently changing the starting time to 3:00 pm. We are hoping to avoid some of the school bus traffic on the way to the session and to avoid darkness, in the winter, going home. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

The second change is this: We will begin to use a more varied curriculum which will allow more opportunity for discussion. We hope this will also allow for the subject matter to be absorbed a little better. After all, the whole purpose of these sessions is to better understand ourselves and the world around us and we hope these changes are a positive step in that direction. Stay tuned at the end of October for the November program titles.

### **Tuesday October 1, 2019 at 3:00 PM in the Children's House: Science and Society**

A 3 minute introduction to the Netflix Mini Series titled "The Mind, Explained" and then two sessions from that series.

Session one is titled "Memory" and Session 2 is titled "Dreams" Each session is about 20 to 25 minutes long which should give us some time for discussion after each one.

For details contact Ken Clayborn at [kclayborn52@gmail.com](mailto:kclayborn52@gmail.com)

### **Tuesday October 15, 2019 at 3:00 PM in the Children's**

As a continuation from October 1st we will continue the Netflix Mini Series titled "The Mind, Explained". We will view three sessions of about 20 minutes each. The first one of the afternoon is called "Anxiety". The second is an examination of "Mindfulness" and the third is a short discussion on advancements being made in research on "Psychedelics" in the treatment of mental disorders.

For details contact Ken Clayborn at [kclayborn52@gmail.com](mailto:kclayborn52@gmail.com)

### **UUA Webinar Series, "Small Numbers, Infinite Possibilities" - October 16 at 7 PM**

Everyone at UUFEE is invited to a viewing party of a five-part webinar series brought to us by the Unitarian Universalist Association's regional congregational life staff.

The series is titled, "Small Numbers, Infinite Possibilities," and is specifically geared for smaller congregations. Viewings will be at 7 p.m. ET on the following dates (archived video will also be available):

- Oct. 16, Smalls Making a Big Difference
- Nov. 13, Right Sizing Your Congregation's Operations
- Jan. 15, Stewardship and Sustainability for the Long Haul
- Feb. 12, Being Beloved Community

Viewings will be on the UUFEE campus, with the specific room to be determined.

The series will culminate March 14 (Pi Day) with special in-person events across our region for us to meet UUs from other fellowships and to eat pie, of course. More details on Pi Day festivities will be announced as they are available.

## **Elkhart Civic Theatre Staged Reading, “Silent Sky” - October 8 at 7:30 PM at UUFE**

This is the true story of Henrietta Leavitt, an astronomer who in the early 1900s opened the door to a dramatic enlargement in the size of the known universe -- at a time in history when women’s ideas were dismissed until men claimed credit for them. Social progress, like scientific progress, can be hard to see when one is trapped among earthly complications; Henrietta Leavitt and her female peers believed in both, and their dedication changed the way we understand both the heavens and Earth.

The play is part of the Marcia Fulmer Staged Readings Series, named in memory of the longtime entertainment writer and local supporter of community theatre. The performance is read by actors without set or other staging. In some cases, a staged reading will be fully staged at the Bristol Opera House in a subsequent season. Silent Sky is the first of ECT’s staged readings that will be interpreted for the deaf and hard of hearing. The play is directed by Demarée Dufour-Noneman. The cast is as follows and may include a familiar name:

- Henrietta Leavitt: Demarée Dufour-Noneman
- Margaret Leavitt: Kelsey Crump
- Williamina Fleming: Genee Crump
- Annie Cannon: Julia Castello
- Peter Shaw: Dustin Crump

Tickets for Silent Sky are available by calling the Elkhart Civic Theatre box office weekday afternoons at 574-848-4116 or by going online at [elkhartcivictheatre.org/tix](http://elkhartcivictheatre.org/tix).

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## **September Board Update**

The UUFE Board of Trustees had a very productive meeting in September. Board members:

- Welcomed Mike Darnel (who was present) and T.J. Shaum (who was unable to attend) as the new co-chairs of the Building and Grounds Committee. We discussed Mike and T.J.’s list of to-dos and board members shared what it viewed as its priority items, including restoration of the basement under the sanctuary.
  - Appointed a task force comprised of Mary Adams, Katrina Wilson, Jim Lindzy, Dwight Fish, Rev. Amy DeBeck and Pedro Galicia to implement a sustainable system to manage our sound system and evaluate the current system for needed improvements.
  - Reviewed discussion questions for board members to rely on as we have conversations with congregants about the future of our campus.
  - Approved a proposal by Mary Adams to develop a Learning Center comprised of limited-run classes and seminars on a variety of topics for members and area residents.
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## **Local Connections: Events Outside UUFE**

### **40th Annual Crop Walk - October 6 at 1:30 PM at Island Park**

Visit [crophungerwalk.org/elkhartin](http://crophungerwalk.org/elkhartin) for more information.

### **Humanist Forum October Events**

October events include Book Exchange, Dinners and Park Cleanup. Visit [meetup.com/Humanist-Forum](http://meetup.com/Humanist-Forum) for more information.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 3p Science & Society 7p Worship & Arts Committee	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 3p Spirit Seekers 6p Yoga	<b>4</b> <b>Sarah Avery</b> <b>Katrina Wilson</b> 10a Tai Chi	<b>5</b> 10a Women's Poetry Group
<b>6</b> <b>Joan Clayborn</b> 9a Forum 10a Service 11:30a LEGO Robotics 11:30a Meditation 2p Protest 5p Youth Group	<b>7</b> <b>Linda Gill</b>	<b>8</b> 7:30p Elkhart Civic Theatre Staged Reading	<b>9</b> <b>Linda Becker</b> 11:30a UUFeasters 6p Board of Trustees Meeting	<b>10</b> 3p Spirit Seekers 6p Yoga	<b>11</b> 10a Tai Chi	<b>12</b> <b>Abby Yoder</b>
<b>13</b> 9a Forum 10a Service 11a Directory Photos 11:30a LEGO Robotics 11:30a Meditation 1p Social Justice 2p Protest	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 3p Science & Society	<b>16</b> 11:30a UUFeasters 5p Family Connections night & potluck 7p Webinar Series	<b>17</b> 3p Spirit Seekers 6p Yoga	<b>18</b> 10a Tai Chi	<b>19</b> <b>David Stokely</b> 9a Road Cleanup 10a Women's Poetry Group
<b>20</b> <b>Bryan Richards</b> 9a Forum 10a Service 11a Potluck 11:30a LEGO Robotics 2p Protest 4p Music Listeners	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Gordon Gibson</b> <b>Abby Halling</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Joseph Ruocco</b> 5p Family Connections night & potluck	<b>24</b> 3p Spirit Seekers 6p Yoga	<b>25</b> <b>Susie Meeks-Wade</b> 10a Tai Chi	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9a Forum 10a Service 11:30a LEGO Robotics 11:30a Meditation 2p Protest	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 5p Family Connections night & potluck	<b>31</b> <b>Joan Grimes</b> 3p Spirit Seekers		



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

with love to:



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## Our Month of “Belonging” Sundays - October 2019

### **October 6**      **Founder’s Day Sunday**

UUFE was founded when its charter was signed in October of 1961. Join us as we look at past, present, and future.

### **October 13**      **Steve Cripe on MWLS**

Steve Cripe will share with us the lessons from and the values upheld at Midwest Leadership School (MWLS)

### **October 20**      **New Member Sunday**

What compelled you to join a religious community? Or not? As we look at the ways that we approach organized religions through time, we will welcome people who have joined us recently.

### **October 27**      **From Me to We**

In this life we are all looking for a sense of belonging, friendship, security, safety...in many different ways. When is associating a good thing and what do we do if it goes terribly wrong? Let’s take deep dive into the question, Whose are we?