

THE FELLOWSHIP FOCUS

of the
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Elkhart

"A safe community nurturing individual spiritual and ethical growth"



December 2019

In Awe of You

As a child I recalled looking forward to going to particular places to enjoy certain things. The amusement park near my Grandparents' house in Massachusetts was where I would get to take all of my quarters and play skee ball. The County Park near our home had this big wooden platform on springs that several kids could stand on and start rocking it until we were all "surfing" to stay on it.

Whenever I play skee ball now (which is not nearly often enough) I remember that now-defunct arcade, bowling for the high score against my mom, and being with my grandparents. When I see kids playing at the park near my house I hope they are making memories like me and my rocking board.

By the time I achieved adulthood, Skee ball game systems and rocking boards became available at big box stores for Americans with money. If we chose, we could privately enjoy a skee ball system in your basement or a springboard in your backyard. It seemed like I was living in a pretty awesome time and place. More recently I have come to think of purchasing those special things as less than awesome—sad even. Part of the joy and the specialness of these childish pursuits was that they were not available just anywhere. Games and toys are fun and exciting, but being with other people while you enjoy them makes it special. It takes community to be awe-some.

You all are awesome. You people who read this. You people (who might even be a serious introvert) know we all need each other. Even when I feel too tired for one more chat, I run into you and want to hear everything you say. I am in awe of you, all of you and each of you. Your love, your stories, what hurts, your compassion, and where your joy comes from. I would play skee ball with any of you—out in public where we might meet strangers who contribute to the awe of beloved community.

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

News & Events at UUFE

Youth Group First Sunday from 3 - 5 PM

Youth Group is held the first Sunday of the month at UUFE from 3 to 5pm. 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 Dec 7 & 21

Bring 2 poems written by women. This group is open to all genders; we are focused on women poets that we read aloud and discuss.

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

The meditation group will only meet on three Sundays in December. We will meet at 11:30 AM in the sanctuary on December 1st, December 8th and December 29th. The third Sunday is potluck and the Christmas pageant (December 15th) and the forth Sunday (December 22nd).

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.

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

Support UUFE through your Kroger Plus card

If you ever shop at a Krogers, you could be donating a small percentage to UUFE simply by registering your Krogers Plus card with Kroger.com. Within 10 days after registering, your Kroger grocery purchases will provide a small donation to UUFE!



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).

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Volunteer of the Month | November

When Laura Snow sees talent, she nurtures it. In her volunteer position at UUFE as Coach for Panda's Lego Robotics Team she brought in one of her own Boys and Girls Club kids! Laura has a special talent for paying attention to details, like getting kids organized for the competition while holding the vision of what they could do. She gave up hours of time she could have done other things to be with these kids and embodied that Love is the Spirit of This Church. Cheers, Laura!



Adopt a Family, UUFE style

Contact Rev. Amy about donating money or picking out an individual to shop for. Our adoptees are: 2 adults from ADEC, 1 family in the community we have privately adopted, not through an agency, with 5 kids. And CAPS (Child and Parent Services) has sent us info on 2 families, one with 5 and the other with 7 people.

Everything must be purchased before Dec. 17 so that we can wrap everything at UUFE on Dec. 18 from 5 to 8pm. Be generous, have fun, and if you want to help another way I will take cash until Dec. 15 so that there is time to shop.

December 18 from 5 to 8pm Family Night

We will wrap presents for the adopted families, eat cookies, and maybe watch seasonal specials and play board games.

Christmas Day, December 25 from 3 to 6pm at UUFE. Family Connections Day!

Kevin and Amy DeBeck bring a turkey and you bring the sides. We play board games, hang out with our family of choice, and munch our casual potluck as we come and go throughout the day.

New Years Eve vespers service at 7pm on Wednesday, December 31.

Join us in an intimate, contemplative, brief time together as we reflect on auld lang syne.

Learning Center Classes start this January!

To register, contact Mary Adams at uuelkhart@gmail.com with name of class, your name, and your best contact info. Class sizes are limited and already starting to fill.

- **Jan. 6, 4-6 pm - Basic Automotive Repairs with Randy Demerly**
How to check your auto fluids, change your brakes, jump-start your car, and change a tire.
- **Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27, 7-9 PM - Basic Computer Skills with Dane Campbell**
Basic computer skills in accordance with student needs. Must bring your own laptop or device.
- **Jan. 13, 20, 27, 4-6 PM - Effective Communication Skills with Mary Perron**
Use of reflective listening, "I" messages, and exploring alternatives for problem solving.

You can also register online through our Facebook page.

Support UUFE through Amazon Smile program

For you Holiday shoppers! If you shop online with Amazon you can share some of your cheer with UUFE. Amazon has a charitable giving program called Amazon Smile. This program directs a percentage of your spending to UUFE as a non-profit partner. Simply go to the UUFE website at UUFE.org and scroll down to the bottom of the main page. On the bottom left hand side is a large box with the Amazon Smile logo. If you click there you will be directed to the Amazon Website where you can set up your giving preferences. It's another way you can support the Fellowship.

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 uuelkhart@gmail.com.

- December 5: Science of Mind (Ernest Holmes) origin of Religious Science, Christian Science, Unity
- December 12: Aurveda Healing of the Mind - Ancient solutions for modern health
- December 19: The Way of the Tao - beautiful visuals, universally applicable
- December 28: The Hidden Story of Jesus - similarity with other traditions.

Science & Society December 3 at 3 PM in the Children's House

We will continue our departure from the lecture series format in December and will view one episode of the documentary series called "One Strange Rock", hosted by Will Smith.

The series presents the story of Earth and gives us a unique perspective to help explain why it is so special and brimming with life. Astronauts tell the story of Earth through their unique perch; spending long stretches of time orbiting the earth in the International Space Station and space shuttle.

The programs are almost an hour each so we will only be viewing one program per session and, in December, due to vacations and Holiday related activities the group has agreed to have only one session in December on the first Tuesday of the month, December 3rd at 3:00 PM in the Children's house. Please plan to join us then to view the episode entitled "Shield" all about the Sun and our special place in the Solar System.

We will return to our normal schedule on the first and third Tuesday of each month in January.

UUA Webinar Series, "Small Numbers, Infinite Possibilities" - January 15 at 7 PM

Everyone at UUFE 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 | [View Webinar and PDF at uufe.org/small-numbers](http://uufe.org/small-numbers).
- Nov. 13, Right Sizing Your Congregation's Operations | [View Webinar and PDF at uufe.org/small-numbers](http://uufe.org/small-numbers).
- Jan. 15, Stewardship and Sustainability for the Long Haul
- Feb. 12, Being Beloved Community

Viewings will be on the UUFE 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.

UUFeasters - December 11 - DaVinci's Italian Family Restaurant at 11:30 AM

This lovely group of UU friends continues to meet the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. RSVP with Mary Adams at createnjoy@yahoo.com or 619-921-0613, so that group reservations can be made by the Monday preceding the luncheon, please.

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



Here are the proposed Feasters luncheon destinations for Jan through April, 2020.

- Jan. 8 - Red Lobster, 3009 Brittany Ct., Elkhart
- Feb. 12 - Bent Oak Restaurant, 3610 Bent Oak Trail, Elkhart
- Mar. 11 - Tradewinds Elkhart, 3147 Northview Drive, Elkhart
- Apr. 8 - Chubby Trout, 3421 Plaza Ct., Elkhart

Sunday December 22nd at 4:00 PM: Music Listening Group

Our December meeting will be hosted by Deb and Ken Inglefield at their house. All who read this are invited to attend and bring up to 10 minutes of recorded music to share. Attending for fellowship and listening is OK too. If you are new to Music Listening, please give the hosts a call so that adequate plans can be made for the light snack. Ken and Deb Inglefield's phone is 269-699-9160.

Tai Chi Classes, Fridays from 10-11 AM

TAI CHI resumes with a FREE review class on Friday, December 6th 10-11 AM. Beginners Welcome. \$10 per class, focusing on Serenity, Balance & Coordination. All levels welcomed. Instructor Alyse Knepple (269-4276-9509) 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.

Local Connections: Events Outside UUF

A Christmas Carol - December 7 & 8 at Bristol Opera House

In December, the staged reading by Elkhart Civic Theatre will be presented at the Bristol Opera House on Vistula in Bristol. The show is a 1940's radio broadcast-style version of "A Christmas Carol." Performances will be December 6 and 7 at 7:30 and December 8 at 3:00. It's a lot of fun, and you may even see a familiar face...

Humanist Forum November Events

December events include Dinner, Festivus celebration and Holiday treat bag distribution. Visit [meetup.com/Humanist-Forum](https://www.meetup.com/Humanist-Forum) for more information.

September Board Update

Summary of Board Meeting on November 13, 2019

In attendance: Terry Mark (President), Katrina Wilson (President-Elect), Ken Clayborn (Treasurer), Ron Gill (Secretary), Susie Meeks-Wade, Carl Rust, Mary Adams, Lorna Lane, Amy DeBeck (Minister)

- Thanks to the Art Exhibition Committee: Most of the Art Gallery lighting will be finished shortly.
- Sound System Task Force has been busy. The hearing assist system has been received and they are working on bids to redo the sound system in the sanctuary. The board expressed gratitude to donors Vern Thomas and Mary Adams as well as to task force members.
- The board approved the acceptance of credit card payment for pledges as well as donations, at least in principle. Details are being worked out.
- There will be a new sign on what we have called the Children's House. It will now be referred to as The Learning Center.
- The support of the board was given to Carl Rust in his efforts to bolster the Woodlawn Nature Center, which is facing some uncertainty.
- On Friday, November 29th there will be a showing of Where Do We Invade Next in the Children's Center. The event will be hosted by Carl Rust and Carolyne Andersohn on behalf of the Social Justice Committee.

Change in Banking Institutions

The bank we are currently doing business with is closing it's local branch in Elkhart in mid December. Chemical bank has decided to concentrate in Michigan and, as a result, the closest branch will be in Edwardsburg. Whereas this might be marginally acceptable we are concerned that it might easily be Edwardsburg that is closed next. As a result the Finance Committee met in early November and recommended changing our checking and savings accounts to INOVA Federal Credit Union. This is a local financial institution and, since it's corporate headquarters is in Elkhart, we feel somewhat more comfortable that they will be in the area for a longer period of time.

We will begin making the transition as soon as we get new checks from INOVA and ask that anyone who may have outstanding checks from the current Chemical bank account please cash them so they can be cleared. In addition, we will be limiting our expense disbursements for at least the first week of December so that the transition will not be overly complicated.

Ken Clayborn
Treasurer



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Genee Crump 9a Forum 10a Service 11:30a Meditation 2p Protest 3p Youth Group	2	3 Francisco Avila Gloria Carney 3p Science & Society	4 Joy Chase	5 3p Spirit Seekers 6p Yoga	6 10a Tai Chi FREE review class	7 10a Women's Poetry Group
8 Norann Winn 9a Forum 10a Service 11:30a Meditation 2p Protest	9	10 Travis Yoder	11 11:30a UUFeasters 6p Board of Trustees Meeting	12 3p Spirit Seekers 6p Yoga	13 Patty French 10a Tai Chi	14 Ron Gill
15 9a Forum 10a Service 11a Potluck 1p Social Justice 2p Protest	16	17 Randi Pickley Don Wycliff Adopt-a-Family Donations Due	18 5p Family Connections night	19 Dale Kern 3p Spirit Seekers 6p Yoga	20 10a Tai Chi	21 10a Women's Poetry Group
22 9a Forum 10a Service 2p Protest 4p Music Listeners	23	24 5PM Lessons and Carols	25 Cindy Benedict 3p Family Connections day	26 3p Spirit Seekers 6p Yoga	27 10a Tai Chi	28 Elena Mark Victoria Mark
29 9a Forum 10a Service 11:30a Meditation 2p Protest	30 Bill Wehner Stacey James	31 7p Vespers Service				



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



with love to:

Our Month of “Awe” Sundays - December 2019

December 1 Silence Kills

Be reminded of why it is important to speak up, why representation matters, and why allies are necessary on this World AIDS Day.

December 8 Decking the Halls

Join us for our usual service time and then stay to decorate the Fellowship!

December 15 No-Rehearse Christmas Pageant PLUS Potluck

Accessories suitable for who was around the manger will be there, but if you would like to arrive as a shepherd, a wise one, or an angel, please do.

December 22 WinterTime

In December we could get overwhelmed with holiday prep. Slow down. Contemplate the beauty of Winter featuring piano music played by Lizzie French.

December 24 at 5PM Lessons and Carols

December 29 Looking Back

Join us for the last service of the year!

December 31 at 7 PM Vespers Service

Join us in an intimate, contemplative, brief time together as we reflect on auld lang syne.
