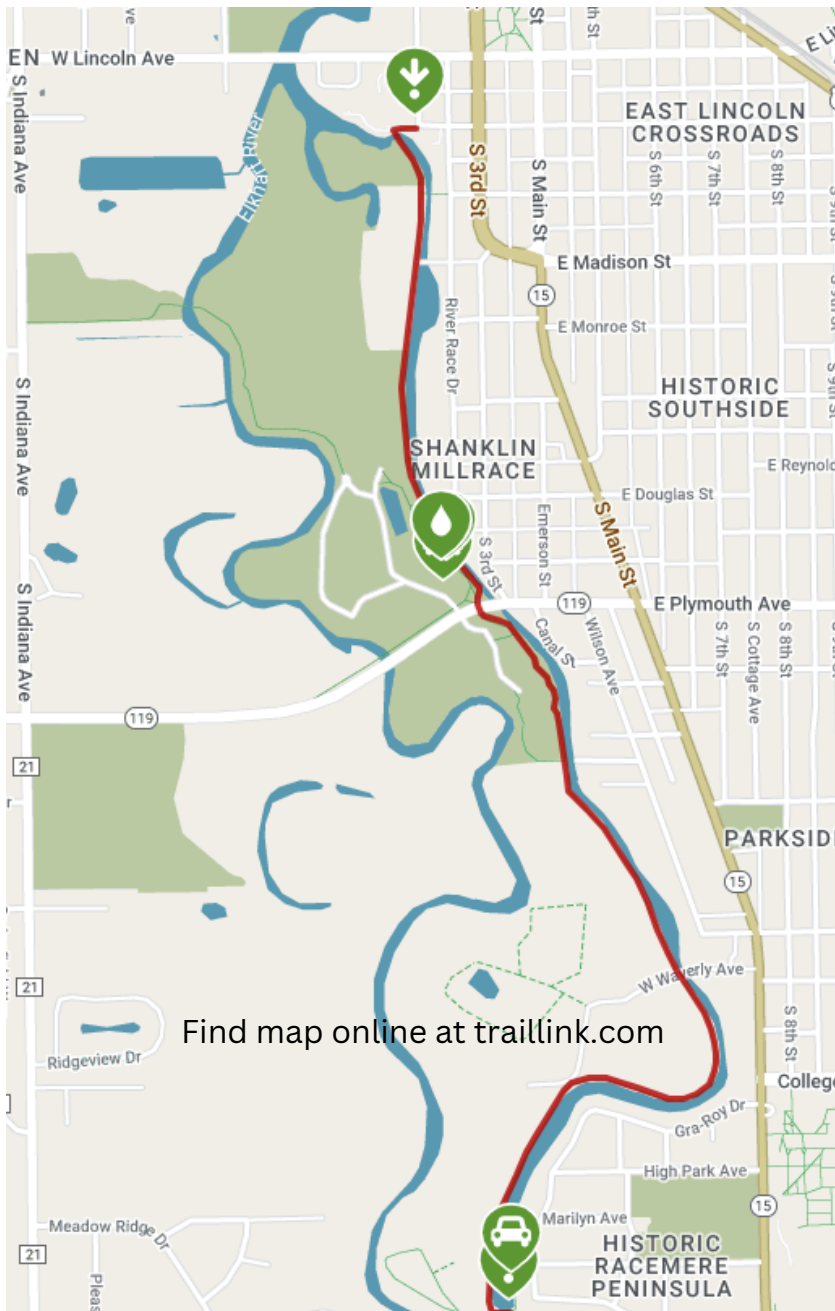


# The Fellowship Focus

## Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Elkhart October 2023



### A Walk In The Park

A few of us remarked during our last potluck that we would like to walk some trails together again. I have missed that since we hiked as a way of staying in touch during the hard days of Covid.

So we have set a date, October 1. We have decided on a location. We will meet and depart at the Goshen Brewing Company in Goshen to walk at the Millrace Park. The starting time will be 12:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. You are not required to take the same trail that we might choose. We will be happy to see you when we see you, whether at the beginning or the end, or in-between.

If you want details about the meeting place or the park, call or text Terry Mark (574 361-6210) or Carolyne Andersohn (574 584-4571).

# Sundays at UUFE

## **1st Sunday, 10/1, 10 am: “Experiences of the Divine”**

For our first Sunday of October, members of UUFE (Art Beutler, Shari Mellin, and Laura Snow) will speak of their perspectives and experiences with the divine. This should be an interesting service!

## **2nd Sunday, 10/8, 10 am: "Willing": Reflections on love, General Assembly, and who we are as UUs**

Terry Mark, a member and former board President, will deliver inspiration and thoughts from the UUA General Assembly Sunday morning sermon. This message was preached by Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti, senior minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan. In his original message, Rev. Mishra-Marzetti asked the questions: The pandemic has wrought change & created uncertainty. Who and what are we becoming? Explore these themes & celebrate the best of who we UUs are. Come to hear Terry’s perspectives on this message and suggested vision for Unitarian Universalists.

## **3rd Sunday, 10/15, 10 am: “The Day The Running Stopped”**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Clifton returns to our pulpit. For this service, Joys and Sorrows will be shared. Following the service, we will have Potluck lunch. Bring a dish to share, but stay regardless. There will be plenty!

## **4th Sunday, 10/22, 10 am:**

Pastor Mariah Martin returns to our pulpit, and we will share our 4th Sunday candle.

## **5th Sunday, 10/29, 10 am: Fire Communion/Samhain Service**

Our Fire Communion / Samhain service will be led by Lorna Lane, a member of our Worship Committee and co-leader of our CUUPS group.

## **1st Sunday, 11/5, 10 am: “Be(e)’s Good”**

Our presenting beekeeper is Jim Culee from South Bend; he will tell us more about who bees are, raising them, and what they do as well as bring honey samples for us to enjoy. Dwight Fish is a member of our Board and a former beekeeper. Dwight will talk about the environmental significance of bees, the problems caused by their decreasing population, and suggestions for helping them that go beyond buying honey.

**Coffee, tea, and refreshments will be offered in the Gathering Place after each service, and Meditation meets at 11:45 am, except on 3rd Sunday for potluck.**

## **Science And Society**

from Ken Clayborn

October's theme is: Our search for meaning in the age of science

We will examine the intersection of transcendent experiences with scientific reality in two sessions presented by physicist Alan Lightman.

### **Sunday October 8 at 2:00 pm in the Gathering Place: The Stars & The Osprey**

"The Stars & The Osprey" begins with Alan Lightman's late-night experience alone on the ocean when he felt connected to the stars and ends with a memorable eye-to-eye encounter with a wild creature. Alan attempts to reconcile these transcendent experiences with the material world of atoms and molecules. Can science explain such experiences in terms of the brain? Are humans nothing but matter?

### **Sunday October 22 at 2:00 pm in the Gathering Place: The Big & The Small**

"The Big & The Small" dramatizes the fact that humans are almost exactly the same distance—in terms of powers of ten—between an atom and a star. But where do we fit in the moral universe? Alan Lightman speaks with an advanced android and then a rabbi, a bio-ethicist, and the Dalai Lama about whether such a being could achieve consciousness and whether we could unplug her without asking permission.

## **UU Feasters**

Feasters will meet at 11:30am on Wednesday, October 25 at Jaywalkers Restaurant, 10188 US 12, Mottville.

Let Mary Adams know that you can come so that she can reserve adequate space for us. Contact her at 619-921-0613 or [createnjoy@yahoo.com](mailto:createnjoy@yahoo.com).

UU Feasters is a social outing for those interested in sharing a monthly luncheon together. Please consider coming and having a wonderful social time with others from our Fellowship.

Upcoming Feasters Destinations:

Wednesday, Nov. 29 - Hoppers Pike St., 1208 W. Pike St., Goshen

Wednesday, Dec. 27 - Olive Garden, 3003 Brittany Ct., Elkhart

## **Meditation Group**

The meditation group will meet at 11:45am, in the RE classroom, on Sundays October 1, 8, 22, and 29. We will take the day off for the potluck on the third Sunday (October 15) so we can all enjoy the meal together. We generally share thoughts on our meditation practices and then join in a group Guided Meditation. The sessions usually last about an hour. There is no charge for this program, and all are welcome.

### **Saturday, October 28th at 5 PM: The UUFE CUUPS Group Celebrates Samhain**

Our CUUPS group celebrates Samhain, a Gaelic festival marking the end of the harvest season and beginning of winter or "darker half" of the year. This is approximately halfway between the autumnal equinox and winter solstice. Please plan to bring a side dish or sweet treat to share for our potluck feast after the rite.

Upcoming CUUPS Events: Saturday December 16 Yule

### **YOGA at UUFE**

We are pleased to have Kristen Smith-Myers as our yoga teacher. She will be with us on most Thursday evenings beginning at 6pm in the Gathering Place.

### **Blessing Bags Collection Date at UUFE is Sunday October 1!**

Please concentrate on FOOD items this week. We will take everything Sunday, Oct. 1 to be sorted, as October 5 has been set for the next distribution of the Blessing Bags.

This outreach is aimed at helping the homeless and their needs are different from many of the recipients of food aid that have roofs over their heads. For the homeless, any type of preparation or food storage is an issue. Therefore, please bring only the following items for this project!

Fruit Cups, Pudding Cups, 6 pack individual peanut butter or cheese crackers, soft granola cereal bars, boxes of tuna or chicken salad with crackers, Hi-C or juice boxes, small vienna sausages or beanie weenie, flavored bottled water.

### **Community Euchre**

Join people from the community and our Fellowship for relaxing fun and warm fellowship. We play round robin games and get to know each other. All euchre fans and "wannabes" are invited to join the fun. If you're a beginner, no worries, we'll set you up with other beginners and easygoing veterans. Contact Mary Adams at [createnjoy@yahoo.com](mailto:createnjoy@yahoo.com) for more information.

Upcoming events scheduled for the following Saturdays at 4pm:  
Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Dec. 9

### **Trunk or Treat Volunteers Needed**

The RE Committee is heading up Trunk-or-Treat this year. They would like for the parents to be freed up this year to devote the time to being with our kids so we are in need of volunteer leaders to head a food crew and a game team.

There have been some difficulties in scheduling the exact date but if you think you can help, contact Renee Ruocco at UUFE or by email at [renaydar@gmail.com](mailto:renaydar@gmail.com)

## **Finance Committee**

from Ken Clayborn

1. Using funds from the Parking Lot Project Line we were able to purchase 150 perennial plants to complete the planting project in the landscaped areas. The Parking Lot Committee recommended this, in conjunction with the Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District. The plants were delivered on September 20 and have been planted in areas, including the parking lot landscape and the entry way landscape. Ron Gill and the Building and Grounds Committee with help from the Parking Lot Committee have all pitched in to help make these spaces more attractive.
2. UUFE received two large cash distributions associated with Doris Stickel's estate. The first was a distribution of \$14,557 from her will and the second was a donation of \$8,500 from Andrew Stickel in her honor. The board will consider an appropriate honorarium for Doris. Both contributions were turned over to the Endowment fund. The funds will be kept in a liquid account which earns interest while remaining accessible in the short term.
3. All payments are current. We paid our first quarter "Fair Share" to UUA. The quarterly payments are \$1,581. Please note that UUFE has been an Honor Congregation (paid full fair share to UUA) for ten years.
4. A tutorial is being prepared for the chair-people of the various committees, who have specified budget amounts for which they are responsible. This tutorial will explain how to interpret the budget lines on the monthly Income and Expense and Cash Flow Reports. Our intent is to help the committee chairs understand where they stand versus the projected budget during the Church Year. This tutorial will be presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

## **News from the MidAmerica Region**

from Terry Mark

- The dates for the upcoming 2024 MidAmerica Regional Assembly have been confirmed for April 19-20 in Madison, Wis. I hope you share in my excitement and would be interested in a group from UUFE attending.
- The MidAmerica Region staff, who assists congregations like ours with various programs from faith formation to leadership development to ministry, is now at full staff after spending 2022-2023 understaffed. The latest staff additions are Bishop Knight, events and communications coordinator; Lauren Wyeth, congregational life faith development specialist; and QuianaDenae Perkins, congregational life resident.
- Learn more about the MidAmerica Region at [uua.org/midamerica](http://uua.org/midamerica)

## **C R. 9 ROADSIDE FALL CLEAN-UP**

Saturday, October 21, 9 – 10 AM

Meet at CVS corner Bristol and Johnson Streets (C. R. 9)

Contact Steve Cripe @ 574.370.8090 or [stevecripe63@outlook.com](mailto:stevecripe63@outlook.com) for more information. SIGN UP SHEET ON IVY ISLAND

We need about 16 people to make do the entire 1 mile stretch.

RAIN DATE October 28

### **Social Justice Committee**

We had our first organizational meeting Sunday September 17. Steve Cripe will serve as Chairperson. Please contact him if you have a desire to work with this committee: PH: 574-370-8090 or [stevecripe63@outlook.com](mailto:stevecripe63@outlook.com).

### **Deepen your understanding of Article II**

If you've been wondering what all this discussion about Article II has been all about, UUFE is offering an in-depth exploration on this historic stage for all Unitarian Universalists.

Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Bylaws, Principles and Purposes, is the foundation for all the work of our UUA and its member congregations and covenanted communities. It is the covenant to which Unitarian Universalist congregations and covenanted communities pledge themselves when they become members of our UUA.

Article II Spiritual Reflections is four sessions of 90 minutes each, conducted in-person at UUFE. The dates and times are 10 a.m. Saturday, November 18; 10 a.m. Saturday, December 2; 10 a.m. Saturday, December 9; and 10 a.m. Saturday, December 16. The sessions are free of charge. Terry Mark and Pam Wycliff will be the co-facilitators of these sessions.

NOTE: While it is not a requirement, participation in all four sessions is strongly recommended to help you get the most out of the experience. This series will likely be offered again in early 2024.

If you would like to enroll, please fill out an online form at <https://forms.gle/MbrVN94mUmksA7Qz8> (or send an email to Terry Mark at [klagmorn@gmail.com](mailto:klagmorn@gmail.com)).

# October 2023

## *Birthdays*

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
1 10am Service Coffee Hr 1145 Meditation 1230 Walk	2	3	4 <i>Katrina Konopinski</i> 6pm Membership	5 6pm Yoga	6 <i>Joan Clayborn</i>	7 <i>Linda Gill</i>
8 10am Service Coffee Hr 1145 Meditation 2pm Science & Society	9 <i>Linda Becker</i>	10 7pm Worship & Arts	11 6:30pm Board	12 6pm Yoga	13	14 4pm Euchre
15 10am Service Potluck	16	17	18	19 6pm Yoga	20	21 9am Roadside Cleanup
22 <i>Gordon Gibson</i> 10am Service Coffee Hr 1145 Meditation 2pm Science & Society	23	24	25 <i>Susie Meeks- Wade</i> 11:30 Feasters FOCUS INFO DUE	26 6pm Yoga	27	28 5pm Samhain
29 10am Service Coffee Hr 1145 Meditation	30	31 <i>Joan Grimes</i>				

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