

# The Fellowship Focus

## Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Elkhart February 2024

### Unitarian Universalist Principles

We affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

### Unitarian Universalist Sources

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life
- Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit
- Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.



This newsletter is edited for you by Katrina Konopinski. Send submissions, suggestions, and comments for future editions to [katksirx@gmail.com](mailto:katksirx@gmail.com)

## Deepen your understanding of Article II

We're offering a second session of Article II Spiritual Reflections to help you gain an in-depth exploration on this historic stage for all Unitarian Universalists. It's free for everyone to participate and is being offered **on Zoom only**.

*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. The schedule is:

7 p.m. Thursday, February 8

7 p.m. Thursday, February 15

7 p.m. Thursday, February 22

7 p.m. Thursday, February 29

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.

If you would like to enroll, please [fill out this online form](#). Form is also available on the UUFE website in the event description. Questions, contact Terry Mark at [klagmorn@gmail.com](mailto:klagmorn@gmail.com) or Pam Wycliff at [rn\\_pamela@yahoo.com](mailto:rn_pamela@yahoo.com).



The plants at UUFE are lovingly tended by Emily Morison and Oxana Werbiansky.

Other helpers in the church, please do not water the plants.

If you have a question or concern about the plants both members are listed in the directory.



### **MidAmerica Regional Assembly registration is open**

The MidAmerica Region is coming together – both online and at the First Unitarian Society of Madison, Wisconsin, on Friday, April 19, 2024, and Saturday, April 20, 2024, for a multiplatform Regional Assembly!

Our keynote address will be given by the Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, and Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson, general minister and president of the United Church of Christ.

There will be workshops, the Annual Business Meeting of the MidAmerica Region, and opportunities to meet many UU Leaders from across our faith tradition.

For those who are in person, there will even be opportunities to tour this historic church designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

But most importantly, it is a time for us to come together as Unitarian Universalists from across the MidAmerica Region.

Please join us, online and in-person for our first-ever multi-platform MidAmerica Regional Assembly!

## **January Summary From Board President Pam Wycliff**

This month was a fairly short meeting with review of what has been accomplished and small task force initiatives which are in the works and hopefully will be reported on in February, 2024.

- We now have a Stewardship Chair – Linda Gill! Thank you, Linda, for stepping up once again when you are needed!
- Our search committee reported they are communicating with two potential ministerial candidates!
- We are currently looking at a software platform that can communicate between committees and do much of the work that currently each committee has to do individual as well as the bookkeeping/financial work of the church.
- We will be reviewing all committee descriptions and putting them in a common format.

Given we are half way through the church year, each person on the board will be looking at what they would like to accomplish yet this 2023-24 year and report their wishes at the February meeting. If you have your own thoughts or wishes, please share them with any Board member to bring to the February Board meeting.

## **Finance Committee Summary from Ken Clayborn**

1. As part of the effort of the Board of Trustees to streamline the UUFEE procedures and policies we have reviewed our documents and have made some suggestions for minor changes to them. Overall, they seemed to have stood the test of time well.
2. We are working on an additional project which is just getting underway. This project, spearheaded by our Board President Pam Wycliff, will consolidate, as much as possible, the needs of the various committees into a common computer software suite. For example, our Membership Committee needs a flexible program to use to produce the annual directory. Similarly, the finance group could use a more robust system to maintain the monthly Cash Flow and Income and Expense records and to maintain a database of current members and friends along with their current pledge information and contact data. In addition, this program could also be used in the production of the newsletter. We are working with the rest of the board and committee chairs on this process.
3. All payments are current. We have completed our annual payment to UUA by combining the last two installments of the 2023-2024 fiscal year. This will complete our 10th year as an Honor Congregation.
4. Summaries of pledges and monetary contributions for the calendar year 2023 were sent to all contributors in early January 2024.

# Sundays at UUFE

## **Sunday, 2/4/24, 10 am: Lorna Lane, "Safe and Profoundly Unsound".**

Lorna Lane is one of our Worship Committee members and our Board secretary. She will deliver a sermon message originally written by the Rev. Victoria Safford. Don't let the title fool you, however. Is our democracy really safe? In addition, we will have a special presentation from our RE Program about their youth service project! Afterwards, coffee, tea, and refreshments will be in the Gathering Place. Meditation begins at 11:45.

## **Sunday, 2/11/24, 10 am: Susie Holszuh, "Planting Seeds"**

How do you take ideas and dreams and bring them to fulfillment? Susie Holszuh, one of our members, will return to our pulpit to give us a path and map to make that happen. Afterwards, coffee, tea, and refreshments will be in the Gathering Place. Meditation begins at 11:45.

## **Sunday, 2/18/24, 10 am: Rev. Carolyn Hunt, "Heavy Metal"**

The Rev. Carolyn Hunt will return as our speaker and share her family's brief experience with lead poisoning, explore the consequences (in school and otherwise) of lead poisoning for children and youth, and discuss the way we view residents of lead-painted homes. Stereotypes about those living in generational poverty can be reinforced and exaggerated by community leaders' inattention to the hazards of lead poisoning. We will share Joys and Sorrows, and afterwards will be our monthly potluck in the Gathering Place. Please bring a dish, but don't worry, if you forget, there will be plenty!

## **Sunday, 2/25/24, 10 am: Stewardship Sunday!**

Stewardship Sunday will be the theme for our 4th Sunday in January. A group of members and friends will give testimonials and encouragement as we begin our pledge campaign to fund Fellowship operations for the 2024-2025 church year (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025.) As a plus, we will enjoy having Marva Netherland as our accompanist. We will have 4th Sunday candle sharing, and afterwards, coffee, tea, and refreshments will be in the Gathering Place. Meditation begins at 11:45.

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## **Sunday, 3/3/24, 10 am: Tentatively, Article 2**

As of press time, we are tentatively planning a service to be led by Terry Mark and Pam Wycliff that will inform and guide us regarding our denominations changes to our by-laws, specifically for Article 2. This is a years-long initiative that will have a final vote at the UUA General Assembly this summer. Afterwards, coffee, tea, and refreshments will be in the Gathering Place. Meditation begins at 11:45.

### **Meditation**

The meditation group will meet on Sundays after the service at 11:45 am, in the RE classroom, on February 4, 11, and 25. Since we have a potluck on February 18, we will take that day off so we can all enjoy the meal together. Generally we discuss our meditation practices followed by a guided meditation. The sessions usually last about an hour. There is no charge for this program. All are welcome.

### **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.

### **UU Feasters**

Feasters will meet at 11:30am on Wednesday, February 28 at Old Style Deli, 200 S. Main St., Elkhart.

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 destinations:

Mar. 27 - Brislo, 1500 Osolo Rd., Elkhart

### **Science and Society**

We will suspend the Science and Society programs for February. As the weather improves, we will contact participants, and interested parties to ascertain the level of interest in the programs and see if the format needs to be modified. In addition, we will discuss the times for the programs so that we might include as many people as possible. In the meantime, if anyone would like to start an alternative program, such as a forum discussion or other program, please contact Ken Clayborn.

# February 2024

## *Birthdays*

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
				1 <i>Mary Houston</i> 6pm Yoga	2	3
4 10am Service Coffee Hr 11:45am Meditation	5	6 <i>Andrea Houghton</i>	7 5pm Membership	8 6pm Yoga	9	10
11 10am Service Coffee Hr 11:45am Meditation	12	13 <i>Laura Snow</i> 7pm Worship & Arts	14 6:30pm Board	15 6pm Yoga	16	17
18 10am Service Potluck	19	20	21	22 6pm Yoga	23	24
25 10am Service Coffee Hr 11:45am Meditation	26 FOCUS INFO DUE	27	28 11:30am Feasters	29 6pm Yoga		

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