

# The Fellowship Focus

Monthly Newsletter of the  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Elkhart  
**April 2024**



***The Year  
To Save  
The Earth***

***A Musical and  
Multimedia  
Experience by  
Composer Jim Scott***

*Jim's lyrical songs of ecology are  
illustrated by beautiful  
and striking projected images*

***5:30 pm - Saturday April 13***

*Admission \$15 advance  
\$20 at the door*

**Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Elkhart  
1732 Garden St. Elkhart, IN 46514**

UUFE.org

Soft drinks and snacks will be available for purchase at the event.

Editor: Katrina Konopinski  
Send information and suggestions for future issues to [katsirx@gmail.com](mailto:katsirx@gmail.com)

# Sundays at UUFE

## **1st Sunday, April 7, 10 am: "Faith, Hope, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer", Steve Cripe**

Steve Cripe, a member of our Worship committee, will deliver a message written by the Reverend Dennis McCarty, minister emeritus of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbus, Indiana. This is the story of a man standing up for his faith and principles in the face of Nazi government threats and death. Also don't miss Marva Netherland at the piano.

## **2nd Sunday, April 14, 10 am: "Article 2 Service", with Pam Wycliff and Terry Mark**

Pam Wycliff and Terry Mark will speak at a service discussing our denomination's important by-law changes. This particular component describes the Principles, Purposes, and Sources of our Faith. Pam Wycliff is the President of our Fellowship's Board, and Terry Mark is a member of the UUA MidAmerica Board of Trustees. We look forward to their thoughts on the proposed changes, which will have a final vote at the UUA General Assembly this summer.

## **3rd Sunday, April 21, 10 am: "The Joys and Fulfillment of Volunteering", Fellowship Committee Chairs**

This Sunday's service will be a special one – focusing on "The Joys and Fulfillment of Volunteering". Our speakers will be our Committee Chairs, with contributions on what is needed to make a Fellowship successful, focusing on their respective parts of our Fellowship Ministry. 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!

## **4th Sunday, April 28, 10 am: "Concrete Evidence", Rev. Carolyn Hunt**

Reverend Carolyn Hunt will deliver a message based on her family's experiences with years-long disintegration of their front steps and sidewalk. They blamed themselves for poor maintenance. Then Rev. Carolyn's husband, Anthony, met a new contractor at Rotary. That contractor came to give them a quote and said, "Whoever poured these used the wrong kind of concrete: interior, not exterior. It was never meant to withstand the elements." No matter what they tried, (weeding, patching, painting), that concrete was never going to last. Rev. Carolyn asks the question, "What are some things in our lives that might follow this pattern?" This will be an interesting and enlightening service.

\*\*\*\*

## **1st Sunday, May 5, 10 am: Service Title TBD, Carl Rust**

Carl Rust, our former Board President and educator, will deliver our message on the first Sunday of May.

## **Sunday Meditation**

from Ken Clayborn

In April the meditation group will meet on Sundays after the service at 11:45 am in the RE classroom. Dates for the April programs are: April 7, April 14, and April 28. We have a congregational potluck on April 21 so we will take that day off to enjoy the meal together.

Generally, we discuss our meditation practices together followed by a short guided meditation. The sessions usually last about an hour. There is no charge for this program, and all are welcome.

## **Worship Committee Summary**

from Chuck Bower, committee chair

For April, we'll have an interesting combination of worship services, two specifically. One involves Pam Wycliff and Terry Mark, who will deliver an upcoming service on the Article 2 changes. Then, we will have a service dedicated to the topic of volunteering, which will coincide with potluck Sunday and a committee fair on April 21.

We also look forward to Steve Cripe delivering a message on Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who stood for his faith and principles against the Nazi's, and Reverend Carolyn Hunt, who will ask us to consider what we believe to be certain, but perhaps is not.

In summer, our Flower Communion will coincide with our Father's Day service on June 16. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday!

## **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, April 24 at India Garden, 615 W. Edison, Mishawaka. 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.

## **ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP**

Saturday, April 20, 9:00 AM (Rain date: Saturday, April 27)

Help us beautify County Road 9. Meet at CVS, corner of Bristol Street & CR 9. SIGN-UP SHEET ON IVY ISLAND AT CHURCH, with the goal of 16 or more volunteers. With enough help it has taken about 1 hour.

Call Steve Cripe if you have any questions – 574.370.8090 or [stevecripe63@outlook.com](mailto:stevecripe63@outlook.com)

**Anyone interested in being trained in CPR / First Aid please sign the whiteboard in the Gathering Place under Social Justice Committee.** Steve Cripe or Pam Wycliff will then answer any of your questions. This would involve a very reasonable cost (less than \$25.00 per person) on average and could be done at UUFE or on site at Elkhart General Hospital. Steve Cripe, Social Justice Committee

## **UUFE Grocery Assistance Pantry**

Thanks to the generosity of all. Please help out in the future by adding a few extra shelf stable items to your cart the next time you shop. We need things like breakfast cereal, pancake or baking mix, canned vegetables and fruit, canned meat, instant potatoes, and canned chicken and beef.

You may submit a reimbursement request to shop using donations already made to the fund. There are also \$50 gift cards to take shopping if you prefer. You may also make a monetary donation. Contact Ken Clayborn for more information.

## **UUFE Care Team**

The UUFE Community is served by our Care Team during times of injury, illness, loss, and other personal needs. To request assistance, call UUFE 574-264-6525 or coordinator, Mary Adams, 619-921-0613. Other team members are Jim Todd and Mary Perron.

The Care Team has two vacancies which need to be filled. Responsibilities largely consist of visits with our UUFE family in person, by phone or email. Anyone willing to consider serving is asked to contact Mary Adams at [createnjoy@yahoo.com](mailto:createnjoy@yahoo.com) or 619-921-0613 to discuss this. Those who have left are already carrying responsibilities on other committees or boards. UUFE greatly appreciates the prior service of Dwight Fish, Peg Cook, Steve Cripe, and Karen Cripe.

## March Board Summary

from Pam Wycliff, President

1. Dan Watson, software guru, attended and talked about software platforms. He will review the few we mentioned and will bring back to the Board at Board meeting in April.
2. Several Board members will be attending the free Elkhart City workshop on April 9 about Safety and Security Training. We also will be checking into Church Mutual Insurance for their recommendations for safety and security.
3. UU the Vote had their Launch for 2024 and UUFE has signed up for this Project. There will be many ways in which our congregation can be involved – writing letters/postcards, working at the polls, registering voters at the Elkhart Farmer’s Market and other ways. More information will be coming and please consider being part if this project that Social Justice Committee is presenting and the Board supporting. As you know, this is a vitally important election in 2024! We need all hands on deck!
4. Committee of the Whole met, turned in their budget requests, and are planning a Committee Fair on Sunday, April 21 where folks can learn what each committee does and where they might want to fit in as a committee member.
5. Stewardship pledge campaign has ended. Please turn in your pledge form for 2024-25 now if you haven’t. A committee volunteer will call members who did not respond. Thank you for your generosity. Linda Gill, T.J. Shaum, and Karen Cripe
6. Check out the white board for new information from Committees. From the committee reports it was noted that Membership could use a few more greeters/ushers. See Annette Long. It’s really fun!
7. Now the last note and most exciting, our Search Committee has found and recommended/offered a job to **Rev. Daniel Miyake** to become our part-time, contract minister! We will be negotiating a contract with him very soon.

## Finance Committee Summary

from Ken Clayborn, Treasurer

1. The Board is working with the new half-time ministerial candidate to come up with a one-year contract. This is quite an undertaking and will involve a large amount of the Treasurer’s attention.
2. We are also working with the various committee chairs and the Stewardship Committee to get the annual budget for 2024-2025 finalized so that we can review it in time to make it available to the Board in April. Once they approve the budget it will be included in the Annual Report for the Annual Congregational Meeting on May 19. The Finance Committee is meeting to review the draft budget during the first week of April.
3. All payments are current. There are no outstanding obligations.

## **Science and Society**

We will suspend the Science and Society programs for April. If anyone would like to start an alternative program, such as a forum discussion (or other program), please contact Ken Clayborn.

## **MidAmerica Regional Assembly**

This annual meeting will be held both online and at the First Unitarian Society of Madison, Wisconsin, on Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20, 2024.

Registration for in-person attendance closes on Friday, April 12 at 5 pm Central, 6 pm Eastern. All delegates must be credentialed online by their congregation no later than 5 pm Central, 6 pm Eastern on Monday, April 15. Delegates must also register separately to attend the Regional Assembly. For more information go to <https://www.uua.org/midamerica/ra>

## **Registration for Chalice Sparx Family Camp & Retreat Now Open**

Registration for this summer's Chalice Sparx Family Camp & Retreat for Unitarian Universalist families is now open. Join us July 4-7, 2024 for an amazing all ages experience at lovely Camp Friedenswald in Cassopolis, Michigan.

At Chalice Sparx camp and retreat for families you will experience a truly multigenerational community. There are no camp counselors here to whisk away the children separate from their families. Here we learn together, worship together and explore together in a community of all ages – including elders who complete our multigenerational village. As an intentional UU covenanted community, we are especially welcoming to Trans children, youth, and their families.

We also have fun together. Swimming, hiking or riding a wagon through the trails, canoeing, archery, popcorn popped in a kettle over an open fire, and of course, S'mores and singing camp songs.

Check out the website of our non-profit organization run by Unitarian Universalist religious educators, ministers, and lay persons from all over the Midwest: [www.chalicesparx.org](http://www.chalicesparx.org).

Like us on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/chalicesparx/>

# April 2024

## Birthdays

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
	1	2	3 5pm Membership	4 6pm Yoga	5	6 <i>Lizzie French</i>
7 <i>Mike Darnel</i> 10am Service Coffee Hr 11:45am Meditation	8	9 7pm Worship & Arts	10 6:30pm Board	11 6pm Yoga	12 <i>Beck Unternahrer</i>	13 <i>Dwight Fish</i> <i>Jess Galicia</i> 5:30pm CONCERT: Jim Scott
14 <i>Ceridwyn Snow-Tveita</i> 10am Service Coffee Hr 11:45am Meditation	15	16 <i>Heather Horst</i>	17	18 6pm Yoga	19 MidAmerica Regional Assembly	20 MidAmerica Regional Assembly 9am CR9 Roadside Cleanup
21 10am Service Potluck	22 FOCUS INFO DUE	23	24 11:30am Feasters	25 6pm Yoga	26	27 <i>Chloe Lawrence</i> *Rain date for CR9
28 10am Service Coffee Hr 11:45am Meditation	29	30				

UUFE  
1732 Garden St  
Elkhart, IN 46514