



OUR SEPTEMBER SOUL MATTERS THEME EXPLORES **THE PATH TO BELONGING ...**

You hardly knew
how hungry you were
to be gathered in,
to receive the welcome
that invited you to enter
entirely ...
You began to breathe again ...
You learned to sing.

But the deal with this blessing
is that it will not leave you alone,
will not let you linger ...
this blessing
will ask you to leave,
not because it has tired of you
but because it desires for you
to become the sanctuary
that you have found ...

- [Jan Richardson](#)



Richardson begins with hunger. And so do we. Just saying the word “belonging” conjures it up: The primal hunger to be included; the longing to be let in. No one likes standing outside the circle. No one likes leaning against the locked door listening while everyone is laughing inside. From the time we are little, belonging is the thing we seek. It’s the hoped for Holy Grail. The promised resting place.

But Richardson will have none of that. Our *own* belonging is only the beginning. That’s what she wants us to know. One minute she’s wrapping us in comforting words about settling in and allowing ourselves to finally breathe. The next she’s shaking us awake and telling us to get up and go.

That shaking should tell us something.

In other words, this is no gentle invitation, friends. No sweet reminder to think of others. It’s a warning. A desperate hope that we will wake to the fact that there are two kinds of belonging: one that wants to *bless* us and another that wants to *enlist* us.

Deep down we know this. The hard part is to remember it. To use Richardson’s language, if we find ourselves being invited to linger rather than leave, alarm bells should go off. We need to be wary of those who welcome us with a club jacket and a soft couch. They may have let us in, but soon they will enlist us into the work of keeping others out. There will likely even be a part of us that wants to keep others out. After all, closed circles don’t just set us apart, they sit us above.

But they also keep us small. Maybe this is why Richardson’s blessing is so intent on not leaving us alone. It knows that we only grow when the circle does. Circles that keep others out also keep the air out. No one inside a closed circle truly sings; they only suffocate, slowly.

It’s all one big reminder that the true blessing of belonging is not that you get to come inside the circle; it’s that you get to participate in expanding it. Again, as the circle grows so do we.

SEPTEMBER 2022 SUNDAY SERVICES

OUR SOUL MATTERS THEME IN SEPTEMBER EXPLORES
THE PATH OF BELONGING

SEPTEMBER 4 1ST ANNUAL "SPARKLE SERVICE"

Bring your magic wands, fairy wings, sunscreen, and favorite cleaning implement as we work together to make our Fellowship sparkle! We'll begin at 9 am and then pause for a short service all together in the Sanctuary and on Zoom at 10:45 am. Snacks and final wrap up to follow, finishing by noon. It's time to clean the slate and freshen our community for the year to come!

SEPTEMBER 11 "THE PRACTICE OF BELONGING"

Belonging takes practice. When we honestly welcome ourselves into our own truths and commitments, we're more able to open our hearts to others. This Sunday, we will reflect together on what it means to belong, both to ourselves and to community.

Following the September 11 service, there will be a CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on ZOOM ONLY, at 1 pm. All voting members are urged to attend, as we consider an increase in Pastor Isabel Call's time. More on page 5.

SEPTEMBER 18 "OUR HUMAN LEGACY"

What will our descendants of the future be like? We may not have any--that is always one possibility. But Rev Dr Sarah Voss prefers to think the total disappearance of the human species is unlikely. We will likely be more genetically engineered and more AI hybrid, but we will still belong together. In this thoughtful sermon, Sarah begins with our personal legacies, then moves to our church legacies, and finally explores our human legacy--and our responsibility to provide for it by our actions now.

SEPTEMBER 25 "ANIMAL BLESSING"

October 4 is the Feast of St Francis of Assisi (1182-1226), who was known for his vow of poverty and his special connection to animals. We will bless our pets at this service. Bring your pet, or a photograph. This can be a pet you want to remember. Or join us interactively on Zoom. We will ask each owner to talk about their pet and then the pet will be blessed. *If you will share a photograph, please send a copy to Dan Swenson, by Friday, September 23, at swenson.home@gmail.com.* Come, celebrate with us!

HIGH-QUALITY MASKS, such as a KN95 or N95, ARE REQUIRED in the Fellowship building for everyone over age 4, regardless of vaccination status.

We continue to offer a virtual option, at <https://zoom.us/j/92604313401?pwd=OXIyeW1RQ0I4U1cxQ1FpU0x2TlZqdz09> at 10:45 am. The meeting ID is 926 0431 3401 and the password is zeandale.



**UUFM is a
WELCOMING CONGREGATION**

Learn more about the Welcoming Congregation initiative at www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program

UU FELLOWSHIP OF MANHATTAN

481 Zeandale Road
Manhattan, KS 66502
(785) 537-2349

office@uufm.net / uufm.net

REV. DR. ISABEL CALL
pastor@uufm.net

AMY BETZ, Board Chair
amy.betz@gmail.com

SANDY NELSON, Director of Religious Ed
DRE@uufm.net

RENEA BROWN, Music Director
currently on leave

SUNDAY SERVICES begin at **10:45 AM** at
<https://zoom.us/j/92604313401?pwd=OXIyeW1RQ0I4U1cxQ1FpU0x2TlZqdz09>

or, join us at **481 ZEANDALE ROAD.**

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COMING UP ...

Join us for our first ever **SPARKLE SERVICE** on Sunday, **SEPTEMBER 4**.
More on page 7.

Members are encouraged to attend a **CONGREGATIONAL MTG** on Zoom, Sunday, **SEPTEMBER 11**. Details on page 6.

UU musician and composer **JIM SCOTT** presents a concert at UUFM, Saturday, **SEPTEMBER 17**. More on page 5.

COMMITTING TO BELONGING

I was so shocked to learn that the opposite of belonging is fitting in. Because fitting in is assessing a group of people and changing who you are. But true belonging never asks us to change who we are. It demands we be who we are.

-- Brené Brown, Braving the Wilderness

At my seminary dining hall, my friends and I would drag our meals out over several helpings and endless cups of tea, only partially aware that these relaxed meandering conversations about the meaning of life were the most valuable part of our education. Since we came from so many walks of life, one of my friends referred to us as "the island of misfit toys" (from the classic Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer animation). We may have been "misfits" in the larger culture, but we absolutely belonged with, and to, each other.

I long for UUFM to be an island of belonging. Do you experience it this way already? If so, what makes it that way? And if not, what is missing? In preparing for our Sunday Services this month, our Conveners discussed the importance of their role in welcoming people to the space. Everybody, not just Conveners, can communicate through our words, actions, and even posture that the people around us *matter*. We can practice gratitude for each other's mere presence. We can also practice generosity--not just welcoming people in but giving them a sense of ownership of the space, the freedom to express themselves authentically in it, and a voice in shaping it. We can activate our curious listening to others' ideas and perspectives. When we are generous with our attention, the people around us feel witnessed and heard. They know they are welcome here.

But cultivating belonging is more than welcoming people after they come through our doors. It's also being prepared for them. Religious Educator CB Beal talks about Preemptive Radical Inclusion, the practice of anticipating the needs of the people who are absent. If there are demographics missing from our community, it's probably for a reason. How are we willing to change so that people who currently feel uncomfortable here don't feel forced to "fit in" in order to belong? Preemptive Radical Inclusion means organizing our activities around the assumption that everybody is already and always in the room, even if we don't see them. So, for example, I am White and sometimes when I lead a Sunday Service, all the faces I see appear White. But I don't assume we're all White--that would be exclusive. If I want to make a point specifically for White people, I say so. And I try to make sure that my message is relevant, and certainly not harmful, to people who

aren't White. This means considering how it will land for people with different life experiences than I have.

How does your language "fit" the people around you in a way that might seem exclusive to others? How might you open your understanding of "us" to make room for others to belong here?

As fall approaches and we clean slates in many areas of our lives, I encourage you to open your minds and your hearts. We all long for belonging--but belonging is not the same thing as comfort. Let us cultivate a culture of welcome that allows people to relax into belonging not because everyone is similar, but because we are misfits together.

See you soon, **Pastor Isa**

Contact Pastor Isabel at pastor@uufm.net, or call or text 785 748-2533. Schedule Zoom, in-person or phone meetings at calendly.com/pastorisa. Pastor Isa will be away from the office September 4 thru 6, September 12 thru 17, and September 21.



The 2022 Arts On The Green hosted by Seven Dolors parish is inviting you to join and help benefit our neighbor, Be Able, on Sunday, September 11th. Please come ready to enjoy music and fellowship. Delicious locally made culinary specialties, artwork, and hand crafts will be available for purchase or donation. All will benefit Be Able.

**Green Space at Houston and Juliette
4pm — 7:30pm**

The 'Be Able' center is a safe and open place to help community members that are often overlooked. The center and staff engage with those in adversity by providing Christian studies, life skills, financial responsibility, and incorporating self advocacy. Helping find jobs, seek shelter and safe spaces for the homeless, and overcome addiction are a few ways 'Be Able' helps their neighbors. Their stories can be found at beablecommunity.com

'Be Able' is located at 431 S. 5th Street MHK and is open Monday thru Saturday.

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ARTSONTHEGREENMHK/](https://www.facebook.com/ARTSONTHEGREENMHK/)

TEACHER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The school year has begun and RE classes are forming as well. Did you know, one of the best ways to get closer to Unitarian Universalism is to teach it to a class of 5-year-olds?! We need a handful of folks to lead classes. Middle School students and High School students would be ideal candidates. We have prepared curriculum to make it easy. The commitment can be as little as once a semester or as much as once a week. We're flexible! Please reach out to Sandy, at dre@uufm.net or 785 341-0135, if you have even the slightest interest.



SO MANY TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES

UUFM STUDENTS AND TEACHERS HAVE HAD
MANY FUN, EXCITING AND INSPIRING
EXPERIENCES:

- 1) LEARNING ABOUT AERODYNAMICS
W/PINWHEELS AND DAN AND KATHY SWENSON;
- 2) DANCING W/MARK MOSER AND TERRI FRANZ;
- 3) EXPLORING IMAGINATION W/CATHY HEDGE;
- 4) SORTING AND PACKING CONTRIBUTIONS
COLLECTED FOR THE FLINT HILLS BREAD BASKET.



PARENT NIGHT OUT / KID NIGHT IN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 6 - 9 PM

Parents, are you interested in a night out? Kids, are you interested in a night in? The second Friday of the month is the event you've been waiting for! Parent Night Out (Kid Night In) is for children from 3-12 years old who can toilet on their own with minimal assistance. We watch a movie, have some snacks, and games and art projects are available. A \$5 per child contribution helps us cover expenses. Dinner is NOT served at Parent Night Out. Please be sure your kids are fed before arriving. *REMEMBER: THIS IS AN RSVP EVENT and space is limited.* Please RSVP to Sandy, at dre@uufm.net, no later than Wednesday, September 7. You'll receive a confirmation email with the location details.

REGISTER YOUR CHILD(REN)

Remember, all children must be registered for the 2022/2023 school year. Registration forms are available at <http://form.jotform.us/form/51486475507160>.

DRE's SCHEDULE

Director of Religious Education Sandy Nelson will be available in the Fellowship office on **TUESDAYS** and **THURSDAYS**, from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. Contact Sandy at 785 341-0135 or dre@uufm.net.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS - EVENTS ARE OPEN TO ALL

The **UU COFFEE GROUP** meets on Zoom THURSDAYS, at 9:30 am. Join us for morning coffee and conversation. Contact Jane Pelletier for an invitation at 785 537-0954 or mjanepelletier@gmail.com.

The Wednesday **LUUNCH BUUNCH** meets virtually EVERY WEDNESDAY, at 12 noon. If you would like an invitation to this Zoom gathering, please contact Kathleen Oldfather at 785 537-3738 or kjoldfather@gmail.com.

The UUFM **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** meets on Zoom Friday, SEPTEMBER 30, at 10 am. For this month's title and a Zoom invitation, contact Susan Adamchak at sadamchak@kansas.net.

FIREFLY OPEN CIRCLE - FALL EQUINOX, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24



In September, The Firefly Open Circle celebrates the Fall Equinox on Saturday, September 24, from 5 to 8 pm. The Equinox generally falls around September 22, and is a day of equal light and dark. It signifies the beginning of the "dark half" of the year and is a time to give thanks for all we've received throughout Spring and Summer as well as preparation for the Winter ahead. Our celebration will be a ritual and feast combined--please bring your favorite Fall or Harvest food to share. Set up is from 5 to 5:30 pm--preparing the food line, etc; and ritual begins at 5:30 pm. If there is time, we will work on a craft as well (tbd). Please email Mandy at spiritofdrakaina@yahoo.com or text 785 223-2383 with questions. Blessings!

BEER AND THEOLOGY

Beer and Theology gathers on the first Friday of each month. In September, join us on Friday, SEPTEMBER 2, at 7 pm. Bring a chair and a beverage of your choice. Learn more from Marisa Larson at marisa.larson@gmail.com.

JIM SCOTT RETURNS TO UUFM - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Jim Scott, a talented UU composer and musician, will perform at UUFM, on Saturday, September 17, at 7 pm. *Gather the Spirit*, #347 in the gray hymnal, is one of his songs we often sing. A suggested freewill donation of \$20 will help Jim to continue sharing his music. Listen to Jim's music at <https://jimscottmusic.com/>. Jim's theme revolves around *A Just, Peaceful, and Sustainable World*. Learn more from Larry Weaver at lweaver@phys.ksu.edu.

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

HELPING HANDS

In September, Helping Hands contributions will be collected for **SUNFLOWER CASA PROJECT** (Court-Appointed Special Advocates). CASA volunteers speak exclusively for the child's best interests in court proceedings. Learn more at www.sunflowercasa.org.

In August, Fellowship members and friends contributed Sunday morning collections to the Flint Hills Community Clinic. THANK You all for your generous donations! Donate on-line to Helping Hands, or give to UUFM's General Operating fund, at uufm.net/donate/.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE



Equal Exchange whole bean, ground, and decaf coffees, and chocolate and tea are available for purchase at the Fellowship on Sundays. Learn more from Anne Cowan at 785 340-5001 or anne_cowan@sbcglobal.net.

Equal Exchange works in collaboration with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (uusc.org), following the standards and principles of fair trade on 100 percent of its products.



UUFM **BLESSING BOX**

UUFM is sponsoring a **BLESSING BOX** and **LITTLE FREE LIBRARY** at Wonder Workshop. Doug Walter reports our box has received notably increasing demand, especially in the past few weeks. To contribute shelf-stable food, cleaning and hygiene products, or children's and youth books, contact Doug at kbsi@cox.net. Or, drop by Wonder Workshop, at 506 S 4th Street, and stock the boxes with your items. Please remember, *financial support is vital to maintain a regular stock of staples*. You can donate funds to help support the boxes at uufm.net/donate/.

AFGHAN FAMILY FUND

We have set up a fund at the Fellowship to help refugee families coming to Manhattan from Afghanistan. You can make out a check to UUFM and note [in the memo line] that it is for the Afghan Family Fund. Or, donate electronically at uufm.net/donate/.

We will hold a **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**, on Zoom only, at 1 pm, on SEPTEMBER 11, following the Sunday service. We'll meet at our usual Sunday morning service Zoom link. All voting members are urged to attend, as business cannot be conducted until at least 40% of UUFM membership is present. Friends of the Fellowship are invited to observe.

VOTING MEMBERS MUST SIGN IN before the meeting begins at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-rj9Sd5MfxMzIWmtQybDtQ6DhMgE6JrAtbH4Rlz1sB2FgvQ/viewform?usp=sf_link to be sure your vote, and the vote of everyone using your device, is counted.

Below, a **LETTER FROM THE UUFM EXECUTIVE BOARD** provides details of matters to be discussed at the meeting:



Dear UUFM members,

We strongly recommend that we consider moving Pastor Isabel Call to full time starting this October. Both the board and Pastor Isabel have ambitious goals to move this congregation forward. These goals include supporting more ways for us to engage as a community and reach out to potential members. However, with Pastor Isabel currently at $\frac{3}{4}$ time, we are constantly battling trade-offs in priorities and scheduling conflicts that are preventing us from fully realizing our goals. If we decide to change Pastor Isabel to full-time, it will impact our budget. We will have a congregational meeting on Sunday, September 11th, at 1 pm via Zoom to discuss and vote on the updated budget.

Here is the background needed to help understand the impact:

As of July 1, our available funds include money in bank accounts and endowments. The Operating Fund and Capital Fund bank accounts have a total of \$102,438. The UU and Vanguard Endowments have a total of \$756,323. This gives us a total available amount of \$858,761. We also have \$93,148 in permanent endowments that cannot be withdrawn.

Pending non-standard expenses include about \$23,000 for the new audio-visual system, which will be paid from the Operating Fund. Also, the roof over the kitchen will be repaired for a cost of about \$20,000, which will be paid from the endowment.

The chart below shows how the budget will change with the change to full-time employment. If Pastor Isabel is full-time starting in October, the budget will increase by \$11,593. We budgeted for an endowment withdrawal of \$23,841 which will increase to \$35,550. If Pastor Isabel was full-time for the entire year, the budget would increase by \$17,390 and we would withdraw \$41,405.

Employment	Minister Payroll	Change	Total Budget	Endowment Withdrawal
3/4 time all year	\$64,690	-	\$192,341	\$23,841
October full time (8 months)	\$76,283	\$11,593	\$204,050	\$35,550
Projection for next fiscal year	\$82,080	\$17,390	\$209,905	\$41,405

The budget assumes pledges of \$160,000. So far, we have received pledges totaling \$143,018. However, there are several members who donate automatically monthly who have not yet made pledges. If we assume they donate as last year, this will provide an additional \$20,115, for a total pledge income of \$163,133.

In summary, we certainly have it within our capability to make an investment in our future and change Pastor Isabel's employment to full-time. Our endowment can easily support this for five to ten years. At that time, we can trust that our resources will have increased.

Thank you, **UUFM Board**



Learn more from Board Chair Amy Betz at amy.betz@gmail.com, or text 646 457-8860.

COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE **FIRST ANNUAL SPARKLE SERVICE!**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, BEGINNING AT 9 AM

Together, we will engage in festive cleaning and sorting together, inside and outside the building. All ages and all abilities are welcome.

Our schedule:

- 9:00 Gather in Alsop Room to volunteer for tasks
- 10:45 Brief Sunday Service in the Sanctuary and on Zoom
- 11:15 Snacks and clean up
- 12:00 Celebrate and head home

Things to bring:

- Water bottle
- Sunscreen and hat if you want to work outside
- Optional: Portable speaker you can connect to our Sparkle Service playlist (if you have Spotify on your phone), at <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0pJRboZK9S0dWRRFdHkO5O?si=2536ac4122d64a6c>
- Optional: Snacks to share
- Bring your favorite snack to share, if you wish.

If you're not into cleaning or yardwork, another way to help is to make food to share. Bring it by 10:30 and join us in the Sanctuary for a brief service. But please be assured, we will have tasks for people of all abilities



GREETING TEAMS

Sept 4: Shirley Hobrock and Sarah Desmet
Sept 11: Kathleen and Michael Oldfather
Sept 18: Elke Lorenz, Susan Gormely, and Ed Olson
Sept 25: Kathy and Dan Swenson, and Livia Olsen

Our coffee and greeting teams have sprung back into action creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere on Sunday mornings. Learn more about coffee and greeting team volunteers from Shirley Hobrock at 785 776-3175 or shirleyhobrock2@gmail.com.

BUILDING USE AND SCHEDULING

The UUFM building is now available to reserve, with limited group size, length of use, and the expectation that those using the building will practice reasonable social distancing and cleaning following use. Please contact Susan Turner to schedule your meeting space, at 785 537-2349 or office@uufm.net.

Administrator's Schedule

Thursday, Sept 1 - 12 to 5 pm
Tuesday, Sept 6 - 12 to 5 pm
Monday, Sept 26 - 12 to 5 pm
Tuesday, Sept 27 - 12 to 5 pm
Thursday, Sept 29 - 12 to 5 pm

Drop in at the Fellowship during Susan Turner's office hours or call 785 537-2349. She may be reached at any time at office@uufm.net.

Susan will be away from the office September 8 thru 22. Susan and her husband Steve wish to express their deep gratitude and joy at the support and encouragement offered by so many UUFM members and friends. We will be thinking of you all during our travels.

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Contact Fellowship administrator Susan Turner at 785 537-2349 or office@uufm.net to **UPDATE YOUR MAILING ADDRESS, PHONE, or EMAIL**, or to **CANCEL YOUR SUBSCRIPTION** to this newsletter. You may also contact Susan to learn how to join our private **COFFEE AND CONVERSATIONS FACEBOOK** group.

If you are considering **BECOMING A MEMBER** of UUFM, learn more from our Welcoming chair Shirley Hobrock at shirleyhobrock2@gmail.com or 785 776-3175.

Fellowship members may receive **UU WORLD MAGAZINE**, without cost. An audio version of *UU World* is available for those with vision or reading difficulties. To subscribe, contact Susan Turner at 785 537-2349 or office@uufm.net. Everyone can read *UU World* articles online at www.uuworld.org.

Join in discussions of interest; receive information on community events, and last-minute updates and announcements on our UUFM **EMAIL LIST**. Contact Susan Turner at office@uufm.net to subscribe.

Consider the convenience of **ELECTRONIC GIVING**. UUFM relies on the financial support of our congregation and automatic monthly contributions offer a simple and easy way to give on a regular basis. Learn more from Fellowship bookkeeper Sandy Nelson at 785 341-0135 or sandralounelson@yahoo.com. You can also make pledge payments, contribute to our General Operating fund, or give to our Helping Hands recipient directly, at uufm.net/donate. *Thank you!*

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please contact fellowship administrator Susan Turner at 785 537-2349 or office@uufm.net, **NO LATER THAN THURSDAY MORNING** with announcements and information for inclusion in the Sunday morning order of service and Sunday announcement slides.

CARING FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Providing support to one another is one of the most important things we do as religious community. Our Caring Team is ready to support you, or help you in supporting others. If you're sick and could use someone to do errands, or can use any kind of assistance or support, please let us know at 785 537-2349 or office@uufm.net.

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the October 2022 edition of *The UUFM Voice* is Thursday, **SEPTEMBER 15**. Submissions received later may not be included in the newsletter. Send your newsletter contributions to Susan Turner at 785 537-2349 or office@uufm.net. *If you cannot get your submission in by the October 15 deadline, please contact Susan to arrange a deadline extension.*

