

# The Elephant (and the Donkey) in the Room



20 October 2024  
Rev. Christie Anderson  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

# ***The Elephant (and the Donkey) in the Room***

Order of Service: 11:00 AM

October 20, 2024

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Music for Gathering

*Bridges*, by Bill Staines  
Brad Bolton guitar and vocals  
Emily Hall, vocals

Welcome and Chime

Rev. Christie Anderson  
Affiliated Community Minister

Prelude

*World's Apart*, by Roger Miller

Call to Worship

David Weaver, Worship Associate

Chalice Lighting

Reading #434, Anonymous

May we be reminded here of our highest aspirations and  
inspired to bring our gifts of love and service to the altar of humanity.  
May we know that we are connected in mystery and miracle,  
to the universe, to this community and to each other.

Opening Hymn

#1008 *When Our Heart is in a Holy Place*

Introduction to the Theme

Rev. Christie Anderson

Holding One Another in Care and Compassion

*A time of silence, sharing our sorrows, pastoral prayer, sharing our joys*

Musical Meditation

Emily Hall, Director of Music Ministries

Reading

by John Pavolich, from his June 28, 2024 Substack

Reflection

David Weaver

Reflection Hymn

#1023 *Building Bridges*

Sermon

*The Elephant (and the Donkey) in the Room*  
Rev. Christie Anderson

Offering

*Words Apart*  
music by Alisa Bair, words by Dina Soraya Gregory  
Vanessa Vesely, piano; with the UUCK Peace Choir

October's special offering is for  
the UUCK Minister's Discretionary Fund

## Extinguishing the Chalice

We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. May we carry these in our hearts and minds until we are together again.

## Announcements

### Closing Hymn

*#1022 Open the Window*

### Unison Benediction

adapted from Conference of Bishops of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

We speak with one voice to condemn the hateful, deceptive, violent speech that has too readily found a place in our national discourse. We lament the ways this language has led to hate fueled action. We refuse to accept the ongoing normalization of lies and deceit. We find courage in our faith and implore ourselves as well as our partners and friends to join us as we:

- Pledge to be vigilant guardians of truth, refusing to perpetuate lies or half-truths that further corrode the fabric of our society.

-Commit to rigorous fact checking, honoring God's command to test everything, hold fast to what is good.

-Boldly advocate for the marginalized and oppressed, emulating Christ's love for the least among us.

-Lean in with curiosity and engage with those who think differently.

Fortified with our faith, we go forward interrupting hate speech by speaking truth with words of respect and love, standing firm in the knowledge that all members of humanity are created with the spark of divinity and possess the capacity for love.



*Next Sunday: October 27, 2024  
Room on the Broom*

*9:15 AM All-ages Worship  
Led by Rev. Kristina Church, DRE Colleen Thoele  
and Music Director Emily Hall*

*10:00 AM Lifespan Religious Exploration  
and Social Hour in Hobbs Hall*

*11:00 AM Traditional Worship  
Led by Rev. Kristina Church with Worship Associate Heidi Sumser*

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## Activities & Events: Oct. 20 - 27, 2024

<https://kentuu.org/calendar>

[kentuu.org/news/announcements-events](https://kentuu.org/news/announcements-events)

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### **Oct. 20 Sunday**

9:15 AM Worship  
10:00 AM Small Groups & Social Hour  
11:00 AM Worship

### **Oct. 21 Monday**

6:30 AM Rental: Hobbs Hall Kitchen

### **Oct. 22 Tuesday**

6:30 AM Rental: Hobbs Hall Kitchen  
1:00 PM Staff Meeting  
6:00 PM Peace Chorus  
7:30 PM Community Sing

### **Oct. 23 Wednesday**

4:30 PM Knitting & Crochet Group  
5:00 PM Youth Music Group  
6:00 PM OWL

### **Oct. 24 Thursday**

6:30 AM Rental: Hobbs Hall Kitchen  
6:00 PM Hobbs Hall Reserved

### **Oct. 25 Friday**

8:00 AM Rental: Hobbs Hall Kitchen  
3:00 PM Hobbs Hall & Church Reserve  
6:00 PM All Church Halloween Party & Haunted Church

### **Oct. 26 Saturday**

### **Oct. 27 Sunday**

9:15 AM Worship  
10:00 AM Small Groups & Social Hour  
11:00 AM Worship  
12:00 PM Town Hall Meeting  
3:00 PM Trunk or Treat

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**Church Address:** Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent  
228 Gougler Avenue, Kent, OH 44240

Office – 330.673.4247

Email – [churchoffice@kentuu.org](mailto:churchoffice@kentuu.org)

On the web – <https://kentuu.org>

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/uuchurchofkent](https://www.facebook.com/uuchurchofkent)

**Church Office:** The church office is located in the Eldredge Annex  
(yellow house) next to the church building



### **CHURCH STAFF**

Minister

Rev. Kristina Church

[revkristina@kentuu.org](mailto:revkristina@kentuu.org)

Congregational Administrator

MaryBeth Hannan

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Dir. of Religious Education

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Director of Music Ministries

Emily Hall

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Accompanist

Vanessa Vesely

Campus Use Manager

Katie Kuras

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Nursery Staff

Michelle Bores

Sexton

Brian Mulloy

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Tech Manager

Julie Swango

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Affiliated Community Minister

Rev. Renee Ruchotzke

[rruchotzke@uua.org](mailto:rruchotzke@uua.org)

Affiliated Community Minister

Rev. Christie Anderson

Commissioned Lay Minister (CLM)

Lori Mirkin-McGee

Commissioned Lay Minister (CLM)

Kathy Kerns

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2024 - 2025**

Board Moderator

Ginny Horvath

[board@kentuu.org](mailto:board@kentuu.org)

Board Asst. Moderator

Randy Ruchotzke

Board Secretary

Susanna Smart

Trustee

Kay Eckman

Trustee

Kara Kramer

Trustee

Claudia Miller

Trustee

David Weaver

## **#1008 *When Our Heart is in a Holy Place***

Chorus: When our heart is in a holy place,  
When our heart is in a holy place,  
We are bless'd with love and amazing grace,  
When our heart is in a holy place.

When we trust the wisdom in each of us,  
Ev'ry color ev'ry creed and kind,  
And we see our faces in each other's eyes,  
Then our heart is in a holy place.

Chorus

When we tell our story from deep inside,  
we listen with a loving mind,  
And we hear our voices in each other's words,  
Then our heart is in a holy place.

Chorus

When we share the silence of sacred space,  
And the God of our Heart stirs within,  
And we feel the power of each other's faith,  
Then our heart is in a holy place.

Chorus

## **#1023 *Building Bridges***

Building Bridges between our divisions,  
I reach out to you, will you reach out to me?  
With all of our voices and all of our visions,  
friends, we could make such sweet harmony.

## **#1022 Open the Window**

Chorus: Open the window children,  
Open the window now.  
Open the window children.  
Open the window let the dove fly in.  
Open the window let the dove fly in.

Mama and Papa are fighting like snakes  
Open the window let the dove fly in.  
Baby is a cry in' like her heart will break  
Open the window let the dove fly in.

Chorus

Neighbors lock their doors, Build fences so high.  
Open the window let the dove fly in.  
Don't see what's to discover on the other side.  
Open the window let the dove fly in.

Chorus

Borders 'round countries, borders 'round the sky.  
Open the window let the dove fly in.  
The only border close you is the border 'round your mind.  
Open the window let the dove fly in.