

# Pathways Retreat

October 2017

## Spiritual Renewal through Birding

### An Interview with Annie Aguirre

The other week Steve and I (Linda) were strolling along the main trail at Pathways and saw a dark-haired person with something around their neck walking towards us with their head turned upward, scanning the treetops. As we got closer, I recognized Annie Aguirre who was, indeed, heavily laden with a camera and binoculars.

Annie, who works as the marketing and events coordinator for Elkhart County parks, is an avid birder and graciously agreed to a conversation. [Continue reading...](#)

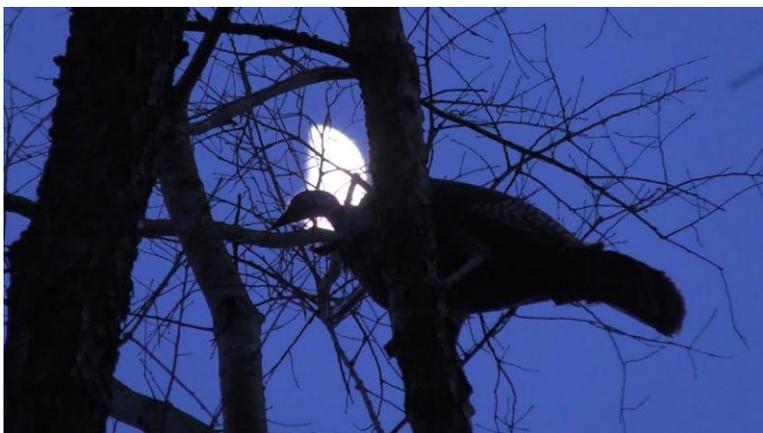


Photo of Wild Turkey taken by Annie at Pathways Retreat

**Annie is leading a bird walk at Pathways!**

**If you've ever wanted to learn to identify birds by their calls, that is Annie's special passion.**

**The first bird walk at Pathways will be  
Sunday, October 29 at 3:00.**



## St. Francis Animal Blessing

October 8, 3:00pm

Each October, near the Feast Day of St. Francis (Oct. 4), you are invited to bring your pets to Pathways for an annual blessing and walk through the woods. St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) had the marvelous talent of seeing the entire world – every living thing – as a beautiful gift from God. He called the sun, the moon, and all the creatures of the earth his brothers and sisters. In honor of his feast day, we bless our beloved and faithful friends. All are welcome. There is no cost or registration.

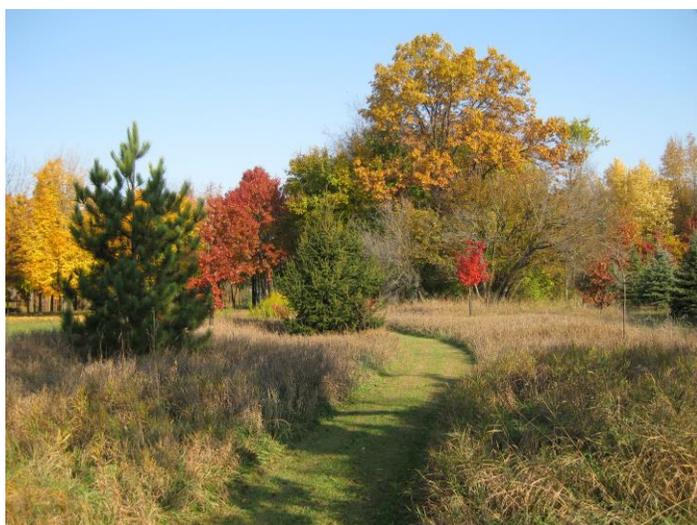
*Our hands imbibe like roots,  
so I place them on what is beautiful in  
this world.*

*And I fold them in prayer,  
and they draw from the heavens light.*

Francis of Assisi

*You companion us through the wilderness  
through the shadows created by fear.  
You plant your seed into each heart.  
You uproot the weeds of our sin,  
You cultivate the soil of our goodness.  
Truly, in you, we become like a tiny acorn,  
holding the secret of a mighty oak.  
You nourish us with the food of Love,  
with streams of Living Water.*

Psalm 80:7-11, *Psalms for Praying*, Nan C. Merrill



## Creation Care Morning

We're looking for volunteers to come help us prepare the Pathways woods and grounds for their winter's rest.

**Saturday, November 11**

**9:00am-12:00pm**

Contact [Evan Miller](#) if you are available.

Photo of Black-throated Blue Warbler taken by Annie Aguirre at Pathways Retreat



## October Calendar

Click on the links for more info

### St. Francis Animal Blessing

Sunday, October 8  
3:00pm

### Listening Together

Mondays  
7:00-8:30pm

### Contemplative Sit

Tuesdays  
7:30-8:00am

### Centering Prayer

Thursdays  
7:30-8:00am

### Lectio Divina (Meditative Reading of Scripture)

Fridays  
8:00-8:30am

### Monthly Iona Healing Prayers

Thursday, October 12  
7:00pm

### Bird Walk

Sunday, October 29  
3:00pm

Pathways Retreat is a contemplative spiritual retreat center in the city limits of Goshen, Indiana, offering rest, reflection and renewal with God.

309 ½ Hackett Road, Goshen, IN 46528

[www.pathwaysretreat.org](http://www.pathwaysretreat.org)

Julie Stegelmann, Linda Lehman Thomas & Evan J. Miller, Co-Directors

[juliestegelmann@gmail.com](mailto:juliestegelmann@gmail.com) / [lindalehmanthomas@gmail.com](mailto:lindalehmanthomas@gmail.com) / [evanjmiller@frontier.com](mailto:evanjmiller@frontier.com)