



Greetings FUUSM

Flower Ceremony ~ Fall 2014

See attached photo for the full crowd effect.



WELCOME / OPENING WORDS

If we observe a season of lent in preparation for Easter, this has been a useful time of reflection, repentance, even regret of things spoken and unspoken, done, and undone (as of yet). There is still time to find a new way - where there is a will, there is a way.

As part of the Marietta Community, we acknowledge that our building occupies the traditional land of various Native American tribes, and we try to walk respectfully and lightly upon that land.

We honor the first people of this land, this place of rivers and ridges.

Remembering Our History

Floods have changed the landscape of our community, but not its resilience. As LeRoy & I visit the Muskingum River each day to check the level and let Rudy play on the bank, we are also noticing the flowers rise up and our sprits rise up with them.

Local solutions define our Mid-Ohio Valley area of the Appalachian region on both sides of the Ohio River. Let us support them as we can, and continue to seek new ways to engage our values in the world.

With the number of cases growing in Ohio at the rate of 9,000 a day, we can be sure the COVID 19 virus is here to stay. The hope of slowing the spread so as not to overwhelm our hospitals and medical services is still vital. Many of our FUUSM members are in high risk categories, even if it is not readily apparent. And parents, homeschooling children and keeping things running are carrying a heavy heavy load.



Chalice Lighting

As Spring unwraps
the flowers, may we embrace
the challenge before us, until
we can greet one another in
love and peace.

May the light of truth show
us the way,
May compassion guide our
choices, and courage help us
to survive.

(KEH)

FUUSM AFFIRMATION

We, the members & friends of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta:

- Support the free and disciplined search for truth as the center of religious community and encourage an acceptance of pluralistic views;
- Recognize our Judeo-Christian heritage as well as other traditions and seek lasting values and new insights;
- Affirm, defend, and promote the equality, worth, and dignity of every person;
- Strive for a world community of love, justice, and peace;
- Support the democratic process and mutual respect in all human relationships;
- Cherish the universe and its resources and recognize the unity of all life.

Joys & Sorrows

Joys & Sorrows are shared in new ways: Death in the family, surgery, family trips posted, and other trips cancelled, life on hold. Recovery is slow.

New babies have been born, birthdays celebrated, and the future is full of uncertainty. We have enjoyed photos of flowers, videos of goats and paintings of vistas and eagles, and numerous words of inspiration. We know that 41.1 oreos measures 6 ft. for separation.

We've enjoyed chapters of Ms. Junie B. by Ms. Cindy B. and delight in her loving outreach. Pen pals have signed up, cards and letters are increasing and many of us want to do something to help others.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The annual Empty Bowls event is set up to channel our contributions and those of the wider community to assist area food pantries. I contributed via Facebook-Empty Bowls of the Mid-Ohio Valley.

Offering

Hope you are enjoying the audio files recorded by Mike Bailey of Randall Kidder's piano music. Play one now as you write out a check to mail it in to the FUUSM Office, and look for an envelope & stamp.

Reflection on Balance

Sunday Sharing March 29, 2020

We Are Building A New Way

from Singing the Journey

We are building a new way, we are building a new way.

We are beginning to explore new ways of connection and collaboration.

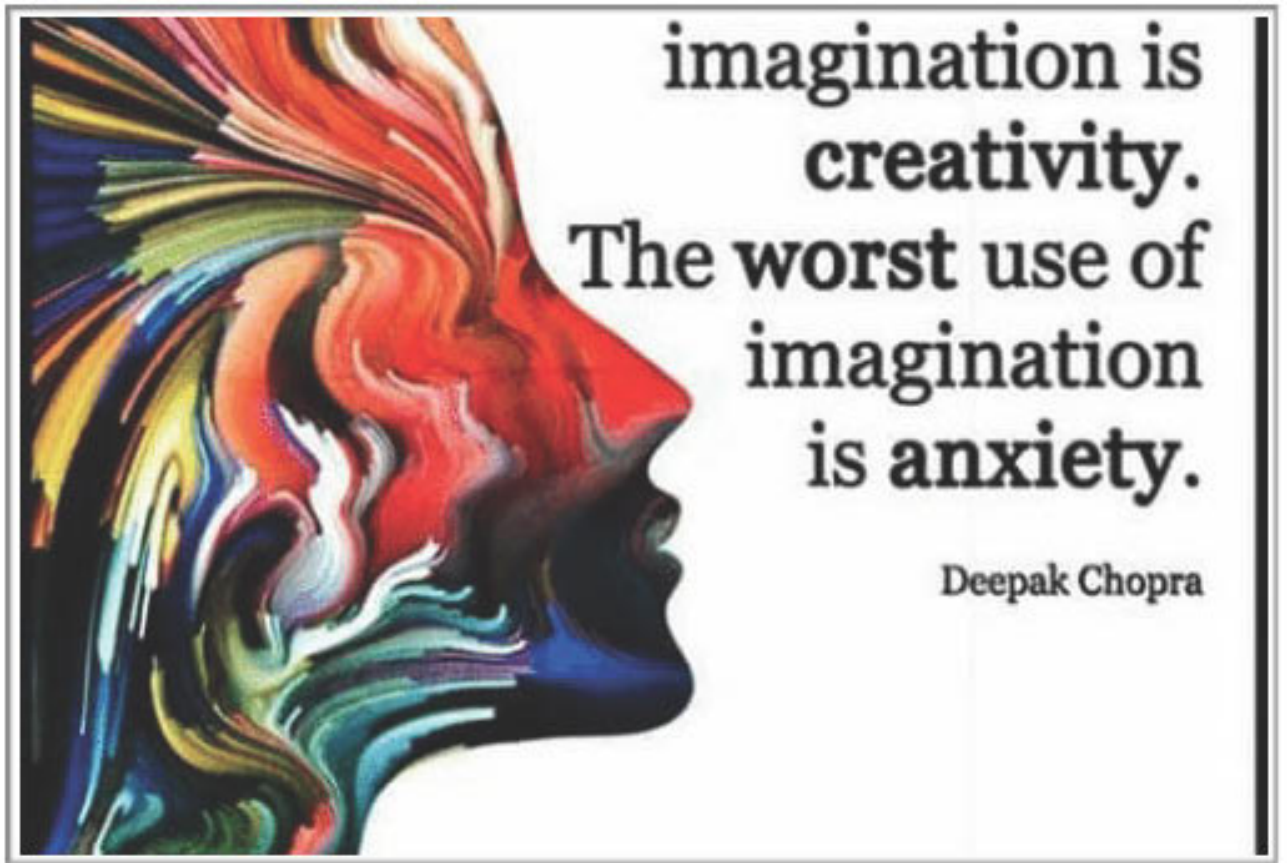
It is also a time of assessment and shaping our priorities for our future budget.

We balance our own needs, with the needs of our congregation and community. In this time, perhaps you are getting more sleep, and feeling more restless. May you find information and inspiration for how you are spending your time, and try new ways of connecting. Our neighboring U.U. congregations are also available online and we can be explorers, our mission *-to explore strange new worlds. To seek out new life and new civilizations. To boldly go where no one has gone before.*

Our FUUSM Mission *is to nurture a diverse community, devoted to spiritual growth and freedom of thought for the benefit of all.*

Let this sink in, as you find new ways to nurture your spirit and help heal the world.

All blessings



#468 Singing the Living Tradition

We Need One Another by George E. Odell

We need one another when we mourn and would be comforted.

We need one another when we are in trouble and afraid.

We need one another when we are in despair, in temptation,
and need to be recalled to our best selves again.

We need one another when we would accomplish some great purpose,
and cannot do it alone. . . .

All our lives we are in need, and others are in need of us.



from

Because We Need One Another

We find ourselves grappling with a circumstance where, because of the reality of our connectedness, we are called to maintain physical distance for the good of all. We must detach ourselves from familiar habits, routines, and ways of being that we have too often taken for granted and rely on other forms of communication and explore new ways of connecting. It is challenging and frustrating and tiring and rewarding and inspiring and overwhelming and complicated and simply what we must do, and I see you all doing that...together! Helping and asking for help from one another; teaching and learning from one another; asking for prayers and comforting one another; guiding and seeking guidance from one another; reminding and encouraging one another, as you care for others, to care for yourselves.

-Rod Richards, V.P. - UUMA Board of Trustees



Quilt by Rev. Diane Dowgiert

FUUSM Friends and Neighbors,

March 28, 2020

I have seen you reach out in generosity of spirit and collaboration as we share stories and suggestions, challenges and heart ache during this time of Stay at Home Order to reduce the spread of COVID 19. We are all in this together.

Some of us have been able to meet quickly by accessing Zoom meetings. I am reminded in these sessions that I must take care to listen more than I speak. We are a community of diverse ideas and we demonstrate that there is more than one right way to approach these issues of life in a pandemic. We seek reasonable and rational solutions based on science, and facts. We have been exploring new ways of connecting, and now it is an imperative.

We do promise to uphold our principle of respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and continue to find new ways to support the democratic process. Our congregational system is organized to empower the committees and seek input in various aspects of congregational life and programs.

Several Committees have drafted their annual report to the congregation, while others are trying to do their best in these changing times.

I am grateful for your creativity and care;
and thankful for your ideas and investment,
Bright Blessings, Rev. Kat Hawbaker

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today - Live Facebook @ Noon - Greetings from the Sanctuary.

Wed. April 1 Meditation @ Noon. via Zoom Meeting

-Try our laughing meditation

Monday Weekly Update Email will share additional announcements.

Several offerings online-

from D. Michelle Wilson

Avoiding Common Investment Pitfalls

Mon. March 30 Noon

Blue Rock Station - videos.