

The Confluence

News of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta, OH
A Voice of Liberal Religion in the Mid-Ohio Valley
Open Minds, Helping Hands, and Loving Hearts

April 2022

WORSHIP SERVICES

Services are held each Sunday at 11:00 am in person in the Sanctuary of the **First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta -232 Third St. Marietta, OH. 45750** (It is OK to park in Huntington Bank lot on Sundays but don't block the drive through lanes)

Coffee Hour will resume in April after each Sunday Service.

The services are also available on Facebook (search for FUUSM) and at this Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/94822183499?pwd=ZVhkMHZWSnR1bTI5czZWRk1zdFFmQT09>

Meeting ID: 948 2218 3499 Passcode: fuusm2323

- **April 3 - Homecoming Sunday The Power of Giving & Service.** Our family of faith is multigenerational and our members span several decades. As we learn more about the individuals and families that shaped the congregation in the past, we affirm the value of everyone that makes up the current FUUSM congregation and celebrate wider circles of community.

***First Social Hour outside. Welcome Shower for Barnett-Sheaves Family**

- **April 10 - Palm Sunday Sing Out Praises for the Jour Rev. K. Hawbaker** Life is a journey, and the destination is not nearly as important as the companions who share in our story. How are the stories of migrants and refugees in our time related to the biblical stories of this season?
- **April 15 Good Friday, and Passover**

- **April 17 - Easter Sunday Raise Your Hands in Praise Rev. K. Hawbaker** As Spring bursts into bloom and our hearts rejoice in warmer weather, we move out into the world. We pause to reflect on the powerful stories of resurrection and the call to live our faith with gusto and abundance.

Join us for the annual Easter Egg Hunt in the Courtyard after the service.

- **April 22 - Earth Day**
- **April 24 Green Sanctuary leads the Sunday Service**

Followed by the Annual Congregational Meeting at Noon Agenda includes the [Annual Budget \(2022-23\)](#), election of leaders for the Board of Trustees, the Committee on Ministries, Board of Trust Governors, and identifying delegates for the UUA General Assembly, and discussion of items that will be voted on there. Policy reviews and updates will be presented to the congregation, along with many various opportunities for service that are open and in need of volunteers.

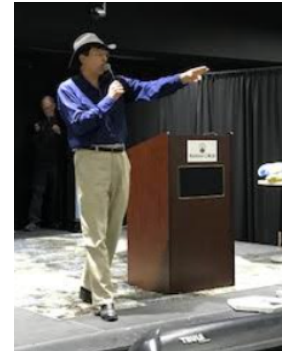
FUUSM Members Meeting April 24

Our annual members meeting will be held on Sunday, April 24th 2022 at 12:00 pm in the sanctuary and on zoom. All members should have received packets in the mail or email prior to this meeting from the different committees. These need to be read so that you can be prepared with questions at the meeting. I do encourage all members to attend to vote on important issues and to voice your questions, ideas, and concerns.

Submitted by Chris Hoke, President of the Board of Trustees.

Service Auction a Success

The first Service Auction since the pandemic was a rousing success. Chris Jacobs stepped into the auctioneer role with vigor and members responded with enthusiastic bidding. There were several parties and social events, cruises and weekend get-aways, a safari, theatrical performances, quilts and works of art, dinners at restaurants and delivered to your home, wine, chocolate and pastry, and lawn ornaments. Estimated collections before expenses were about \$12,700.



Christina Thatcher did an outstanding job as the organizer. She would like to thank the following volunteers:

I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to pull the auction together. It takes a village.... or a society!!, boy did we ever prove that on Friday! So many volunteers everything flowed like clockwork. To say it was a huge success is an understatement!!! Our entertainment was provided by Soph Stevens... she sang her little heart out.

And our Auctioneer..... Well. I think it's safe to say that Chris Jacobs has a permanent job! He had big shoes to fill and he sure did it with style.
Hats off to Cindy Brown for working so diligently on the catalog and setting up the Silent Auction Tables with the help of Cathy Rees.
Dawn Hewitt out did herself with the Country Store this year, and Cindy Lee decorated the tables beautifully.
Shari and Dave Ballantyne... walked me through my first year and did most of the legwork. I appreciate you both!
And none of it could've happened without our tech crew.. Mike Bailey, Adeline Bailey, Al Tuttle, and Cindy Brown.
Thank you again to all of the volunteers.... there were too many to list.

Thank you to everyone who donated and purchased items this year. We look forward to many more successful events.

Christina Thrasher

Next Year's Budget

As your treasurer, I have prepared a budget model including a proposed budget for next year and projections for the next five years. The proposed budget has been approved by the Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees. I have updated it to take account of the greater than predicted success of this year's pledge drive and the success of the Service Auction. Click here to review the [Budget Model](#). Email me, tedgoertzel@gmail.com, if you have any questions.

Board Briefs

Rev. Kat requested Board input to get the B.R.I.D.G.E.S. Religious Exploration program functioning.

Ted presented the Treasurer's Report for February and pledges are up-to-date. Thank you.

Ted also presented a simplified budget model for 2022-2023 as recommended by the Finance Committee. The Board approved this budget and it will be sent to the congregation.

The Evaluation Instrument for the Minister's Evaluation was approved. An Evaluation will be conducted by the Evaluation Team of Ron Rees, Diana Bonnell and Nancy Luthy.

There are 2 applicants for the Office Assistant Job at this time.

The Board voted to rescind the COVID regulation for no food and drink; therefore, our Sunday coffee will resume April 3rd. COVID updates will be presented at the April meeting of the Congregation.

Nancy proposed a change in the by-law about the Committee on Ministries. It will be reviewed at a later date.

The Board approved a request from Green Sanctuary to join "Interfaith Power and Light". The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be April 24th.

Service Recognition Awards: Christina Thrasher, Shari Ballantyne and Cindy Brown for organizing the Service Auction.

Submitted by Nancy Luthy

Buddhist Bootcamp Discussion Group

For the next couple of months, on the fourth Sunday of the month, some members of the MOV Friends and FUUSM will be meeting to listen to one or two of Timber Hawkeye's podcasts, and spend some time in reflection and discussion. For those of you unfamiliar with The Buddhist Bootcamp or the podcast, they consist of short journal entries and reflections on different topics that strive to inspire and move us to implement mindfulness techniques into our daily lives. Timber encourages the listener to question everything, to be a learner, and to lead by example. Despite the title, he is not teaching Buddhism, rather he explores everyday life and how we deal with it.

Meetings will be hybrid, held in the FUUSM RE building parlor and on zoom, at approximately 12:15. You are welcome to bring a snack for yourself, or one to share if you are comfortable doing so.

**On March 27, we will be viewing Timber's Ted Talk which can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIFTxRJfLTM>

Pledge Drive Higher Than Last Year!



Our current total for the 2022 Pledge Drive (for the 2022-2023 budget) is **\$114,980**. This exceeds the amount pledged last year. Many thanks to all who have pledged--some for the first time. Submitted by George Banziger.

Welcome Beatrice Mae



Dear FUUSM Members and Friends,

We are so grateful for your love and kindness as we welcome Beatrice “Birdie” to our family. Thank you so much for the generous gift basket. We love all of the books, outfits, and loveys. The wipes and gift cards will be very useful. It is wonderful to have so much support at this amazing time of our lives and we are blessed to know that so many people are thinking of us. We cannot wait to introduce Birdie to her loving church family (when it is safe to do so!).

With love, Lyndsey and Jimmy Bennett.

Help Needed for Coffee Hour

The FUUSM Board of Trustees has decided to reinstate our coffee hour (after each Sunday worship service). This reinstatement will begin on April 3. Our coffee hour has been an important part of our FUUSM identity for years, and we all look forward to a renewal of our opportunity to socialize with other members and friends. (although with some well advised caution since the pandemic is not completely behind us).

In order to carry out our coffee-hour ritual, we do need some volunteers to help with set up and clean up, as was done in the past. In the two years before the pandemic I had arranged a list of volunteers and a schedule, using the software from Sign-Up Genius. This online service records the schedule and email addresses of all the volunteers and automatically sends out a message four days before to the persons assigned for that date.

We need TWO people for each date. so I am asking for volunteers for a trial period of the next three months. If you do volunteer during this period (you don't need to specify a date), let me know what dates in the next three months you will NOT be present for the worship service and coffee hour because of travel plans or related conflicts. Email gbanz42@suddenlink.net to sign up!

UU's for Justice Ohio



This is a monthly meeting. Participants are encouraged to commit to an action to bring justice to this issue of lead contamination for vulnerable Ohio families. [Click here to register.](#) Contact Ginnie McNeil for more information: 304-613-9138

FUUSM is a Cool Congregation

FUUSM is one of the twelve national Interfaith Power & Light (IPL) 2022 Cool Congregations Challenge participants awarded a \$500 runners up award. The annual contest accepts applications from religious congregations around the United States who are doing work to address global warming by reducing their carbon footprint as they create models of sustainability within their communities.

FUUSM won the Sacred Grounds runner-up award for our Fort Street Pollinator Habitat project. Spearheaded by the congregation's Green Sanctuary Committee, the congregation gained support from Marietta city officials, Fort Street neighbors, and private individuals, as well as receiving grant funding from Dupont's Clear Into the Future program to take on this project along the west side of the Muskingum River bank.

GSC committee chair, Dawn Hewitt congratulated the congregation on winning the award.

"Kudos and big credit especially to Rebecca Phillips, Andrew Clovis, and all those who put time, energy, and muscles into our Riverbank project! "

Over many months in 2020 and 2021, the GSC, joined by volunteers, worked with project leader Rebecca Phillips to salvage heritage plantings in honor of earlier caretakers along with existing native plants before laying down black plastic to suppress invasives. Additional native plants were added in May following the plan developed by project designer Andrew Clovis, GSC member and master naturalist, and a second phase of planting was done last fall. A drip irrigation system was added to the site to access the city's generous provision of water to the habitat. GSC volunteers are continuing to monitor the garden through the winter, anticipating the arrival of spring growth.

"FUUSM and the other national winning congregations are casting a vision for the kind of world in which they want to live, and then carrying out that vision with practical actions that make a real difference in creating lasting solutions to climate change," said Rev. Susan Hendershot, President of Interfaith Power & Light.

The Cool Congregations Challenge shows that people of faith are united by concerns about climate change and are taking action – with or without support of government policies. The winners provide strong moral role models for their communities, and their activities have a ripple effect with people in their own homes."

Submitted by Adeline Bailey

Green Sanctuary Committee Activities

After viewing *The Condor and The Eagle*, a documentary about the work of indigenous people and their supporters in protecting Earth and all its inhabitants, several members and friends of the Green Sanctuary Committee were inspired to organize ourselves into a follow-up project committee to discuss what we could do to help.

In general, we agreed that we had five goals in mind, and we've been investigating what we might do to reach these goals:

- 1. Raise funds to support indigenous peoples' efforts to protect the environment;**
- 2. Learn about indigenous peoples' understanding of nature;**
- 3. Involve young people: reach out to schools;**
- 4. Make connections with other groups and individuals who could help us.; and**
- 5. Invite the congregation and the wider community to participate .**

Now, with the support of the GSC, we're really excited to share some of our ideas and plans with you! (See Goal #5)

•We're starting a **Book Group** to help us learn more about Native Americans' views of the natural world and our place in it. We've chosen ***Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*** by Robin Wall Kimmerer as our first book. The ***Braiding Sweetgrass*** group will meet in person (**we hope!**) at FUUSM at 12:30 p.m. on **Sundays May 8, June 12, and July 10**, with Dawn Hewitt and Cindy Taylor leading the discussion. The book is readily available from various sources online and, of course, at the library. More details will be available soon!

From Wikipedia: Kimmerer describes *Braiding Sweetgrass* as " A braid of stories...woven from three strands: indigenous ways of knowing, scientific knowledge, and the story of an [Anishinabeckwe](#) scientist trying to bring them together in service to what matters most." She also calls the work "an intertwining of science, spirit, and story."

•Our first **fundraising event**, a Just Dinner style gathering in the FUUSM Social Hall scheduled for early June, will also help us raise awareness of indigenous peoples' teachings regarding the foods we eat. We hope to honor those teachings without appropriating their cultures and traditions, and at the same time, raise some funds for indigenous groups who are on the frontline protecting our shared planet and its resources. More on this event as our plans develop.

•We hope to have a presence at the **MOV Multi-Cultural Festival** in Parkersburg June 17 - 20. Would you like to help?

•What do we know about the **Native American tribes in our area**? How can we learn more? Jane Tumas-Serna has been looking for answers to these questions, and has suggested we begin to get acquainted by attending some nearby powwows, perhaps in July.

We're investigating more ideas for events to raise awareness **and funds** this fall. We're grateful to have the backing of the GSC, and we welcome you to be part of the team!

Submitted by Adeline Bailey, for the C&E project team

Rev. Kat's Korner *Our Wider UU World*

Unitarian Universalists have long upheld the right of conscience, and the individual search for truth and meaning. Not having a creedal test of faith means we emphasize the voluntary nature of our association- our covenant of membership based on relationships, not on a shared statement of belief. We have the FUUSM Affirmation as a cornerstone and a flag pole on which to declare our principles and purposes. These elements help us communicate our values, not just what we believe, but how we organize ourselves as a democratic institution.

Here are just a few of the institutions that help to organize our collective efforts around our shared values for a stronger voice and influence.

U.U. Justice Ohio

Unitarian Universalist Justice Ohio (UUJO) is a 501C3 organization that serves the 38 UU congregations and fellowships across Ohio. Our mission is to offer education, advocacy and action consistent with Unitarian Universalist liberal religious principles and to witness with and on behalf of marginalized groups and individuals.

There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives.
-Audre Lorde

Central East Region

The Central East Region helps congregations of all shapes and sizes connect with each other and with resources that help them best express their Unitarian Universalist faith in a changing and hurting world. We believe that we're at our best when we work together—and we Central East Region staff work together to help your congregation be its best.

Our Primary Contact is Beth Casebolt, who has led Board Development workshops for our Appalachian Cluster, including congregations in WV and FUUS. We have utilized webinars and worship services, resources and Leader Lab articles and other online groups and lists. Our annual dues help to amplify our UUA.

Side With Love



Side with Love is a public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression. It is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association and all are welcome to join. Subscribe to get updates. They offer resources and webinars on a variety of topics including Voting Rights and Registration drives and Congregational Climate Convergence. Find out more.

Get Rooted, Get Ready!

Spring for Change - A Season of Sacred Activism
March 20 - May 22, 2022

Join Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth and collaborative partners in a season of spiritual grounding and community action!

3/20 SPRING EQUINOX DINNER CHURCH
Nourish your body and spirit in this evening worship & virtual community dinner event.

3/22 CONGREGATIONAL CLIMATE LEADERS CONVERGENCE
Virtual day of networking & support for local UU climate organizing with Side With Love & Green Sanctuary 2030

& WORLD WATER DAY

3/23 ECOLOGY AS SCRIPTURE
Workshop for ministers, seminarians, religious educators & lay leaders

3/26, 4/2 & 4/9
UU YOUNG ADULTS
CLIMATE JUSTICE TRAINING SERIES
Covering Ecological Grief, Jail Support, and Health and Wellness for the Moment and for the Future

4/22 EARTH DAY VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE
8am PT / 10am MT / 11am CT / 12pm ET

4/22-5/1

"DISPLACEMENT & HUMAN RIGHTS: ALL IN FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE"

INTERGENERATIONAL SPRING SEMINAR

A week of virtual learning & community building for justice with UU Office at the United Nations, UU Ministry for Earth, UUSC, Side With Love, & more!

& 4/22-5/1

"SACRED TRUST: OUR CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO A LIVEABLE FUTURE"
FAITH CLIMATE ACTION WEEK
w/ Interfaith Power & Light & Partners

5/22 BIODIVERSITY SUNDAY

Celebrate the Web of Life with a special worship service &/or eco-art build at your congregation!

Find More Details at UUMFE.org/springforchange



Submitted by Adeline Bailey

Confluence Calendar of Events

To add an item to the calendar, email the Office at:

fuusm@suddenlinkmail.com

This calendar is updated regularly

[Click here for the latest updated version.](#)

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta -232 Third St. Marietta, OH. 45750
(corner of Putnam & Third Streets in Marietta.)

It is OK to park in Huntington Bank lot on Sundays (don't block the drive through lanes)

Check the website at www.fuusm.org for guidelines on pandemic safety. If you are not on the mailing list, email the Office at fuusm@suddenlinkmail.com or call 740 373-1238

Sunday, April 3

- 9:30 am Today's Issues group meets in the parlor of the RE building and on Zoom.
[Click Here for Information.](#)
- 9:30am Choir Rehearsal in sanctuary -Martha Webster, Choir Dir. & Randall Kidder, Pianist.
- 11:00 am Church Service in the Sanctuary and also on Zoom at
<https://zoom.us/j/94822183499?pwd=ZVhkMHZWSnR1bTI5czZWRk1zdFFmQT09>

Wednesday, April 6

- 12:00pm Meditation Group in Zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/98911407403?pwd=UIRqTzIzZ2ZlZkVkdZTTVZZdTgwQT09>

Sunday, April 10

- 9:30 am Today's Issues group meets in the parlor of the RE building and on Zoom.
[Click Here for Information.](#)
- 9:30am Choir Rehearsal in sanctuary -Martha Webster, Choir Dir. & Randall Kidder, Pianist.
- 11:00 am Church Service in the Sanctuary and also on Zoom at
<https://zoom.us/j/94822183499?pwd=ZVhkMHZWSnR1bTI5czZWRk1zdFFmQT09>
- 11:00 am. Quaker Meeting in the RE Building Parlor

Wednesday, April 13

- 12:00pm Meditation Group in Zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/98911407403?pwd=UIRqTzIzZ2ZlZkVkdZTTVZZdTgwQT09>
- 6:00pm Women's Group details TBA

Sunday, April 17

- 9:30 am Today's Issues group meets in the parlor of the RE building and on Zoom.
[Click Here for Information.](#)
- 9:30am Choir Rehearsal in sanctuary -Martha Webster, Choir Dir. & Randall Kidder, Pianist.
- 11:00 am Church Service in the Sanctuary and also on Zoom at
<https://zoom.us/j/94822183499?pwd=ZVhkMHZWSnR1bTI5czZWRk1zdFFmQT09>

Wednesday, April 20

- 12:00pm Meditation Group in Zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/98911407403?pwd=UIRqTzIzZ2ZLaZkVDZTTVZZdTgwQT09>

Sunday, April 24

- 9:30 am Today's Issues group meets in the parlor of the RE building and on Zoom.
[Click Here for Information.](#)
- 9:30am Choir Rehearsal in sanctuary -Martha Webster, Choir Dir. & Randall Kidder, Pianist.
- 11:00am Quaker Meeting in the RE Building Sanctuary
- 11:00 am Church Service in the Sanctuary and also on Zoom at
<https://zoom.us/j/94822183499?pwd=ZVhkMHZWSnR1bTI5czZWRk1zdFFmQT09>
- Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary After Church Service

Wednesday, April 27

- 12:00pm Meditation Group in Zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/98911407403?pwd=UIRqTzIzZ2ZLaZkVDZTTVZZdTgwQT09>