

# Letting Go and Moving Forward

*When the evergreen stands silently against the broken land,  
and the icicle, like Spring's cocoon, is spun by winter's hand,  
we turn to friends and family, and mourn the loved ones gone,  
and gather them around us as we raise our voice in song.  
Now, the solstice moon is like a pearl suspended in the lake,  
frozen underneath a spell no human hand can break.  
We turn to ask forgiveness, and with gratefulness of heart  
turn once again to welcome in the new year as it starts.*

—by Anne Hills, from “The Turning of the Year”

## Gathering Music

**Welcome Song, #188** “Come, Come, Whoever You Are” words: Rumi  
in *Singing the Living Tradition*, music: Lynn Adair Ungar

**Welcome Prelude** Martha McGovern, worship leader

**Chalice Lighting, #446** “To the Four Directions” Joan Goodwin

\*Please rise in body or spirit.

**\*Hymn #360** “Here We Have Gathered” verses 1 & 3 words: Alicia S. Carpenter;  
in *Singing the Living Tradition* music: Genevan psalter

**\*F.U.U.S.M. Affirmation**

**Time for All Ages** *Ten Beautiful Things* by Holly Beth Griffin;  
illustrated by Maribel Lechuga

**Sending Song** “Go Now in Peace” Natalie Sleeth

**Go now in Peace. Go now in peace.  
May the spirit of Love surround you,  
Everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

Collection of Offerings  
Offertory

Fire Communion

Letting Go

**Responsive Reading #628**, “Rolling Away the Stone”

Sara Moores Campbell

**Musical Interlude** while you write

Moving Forward: Goals, Commitments

**Responsive Reading #544**, “New Year’s Day”

Kathleen McTigue

**Musical Interlude** while you write

**Sharing Our Turnings** As you are willing, share your thoughts with someone nearby.

**\*Closing Hymn #362** “Rise Up, O Flame” words: anonymous  
in *Singing the Living Tradition* music: Christoph Praetorius

**Rise up, O flame, by thy light glowing show us beauty, vision and joy.**

**Closing Words** “The Turning of the Year” Anne Hills

**Postlude** “The Turning of the Year” Anne Hills, Priscilla Herdman,  
and Cindy Mangesen (used with permission)

**Announcements**

Facebook Live ends

**Joys and Sorrows/Wheel of Life**

(Zoom participants are invited to share, too.)

**Closing Words/ Extinguishing the Chalice**

**Moving Forth Music**

**Burning to Let Go** at the main entrance sidewalk.



**Welcome! We’re glad you’re here!**

If you would like to learn more about membership or participation in FUUSM congregational life, please speak to today’s host.

- Thanks to our childcare staff, **Owen Cejka**, **Lela Erb**, and **Deborah Lauer**.
- We are grateful to our tech crew, **Mike Bailey** and **Ralph Olander**; to our Coffee Hour volunteers; to today's host, **Adeline Bailey**, and greeters, **Linda Needham** and **Jenna Young**; to our worship leader, **Martha McGovern**; to our pianist, **Randall Kidder**, who was recently hospitalized; and to our minister, **Rev. Kathryn Hawbaker**, who is on sabbatical.

### Announcements

#### Today

- Coffee hour! **Joan Coffey** and **Judy Segall** will be serving.

**Monday, January 1, 2024: Happy New Year! FUUSM Office closed.**

#### Tuesday, January 2

- 3:30–6:30 p.m., Girl Scout troop meets in social hall.

#### Wednesday, January 3

- Noon, **Meditation** via Zoom.
- 5 p.m., **Worship & Music Committee** meeting, RE parlor.

#### Sunday, January 7

- 9:30 a.m., **Choir practice**, sanctuary; **Today's Issues** discussion, RE parlor.
- 11 a.m., **Sunday service**, sanctuary.
- 12:15 p.m., **Committee on Ministries**, RE parlor.

**FUUSM Office hours:** Mon., Tu., Th., Fri. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. (740) 373-1238, [fuusm@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:fuusm@suddenlinkmail.com) or [fuusm.office@gmail.com](mailto:fuusm.office@gmail.com). Rev. Hawbaker is on sabbatical.

### FUUSM Affirmation

*We, the members and 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.*

# First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta

232 Third St., Marietta, OH 45750

*A voice of liberal religion in the Mid-Ohio Valley*



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## ***FIRE COMMUNION:***

# ***Letting Go and Moving Forward***

*December 31, 2023*