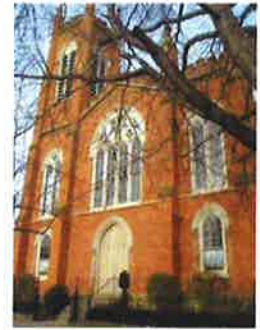




*Open minds, helping hands,
and loving hearts.*



First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta
232 Third Street
Marietta, OH 45750

February 6, 2026

Dear FUUSM Members and Friends,

We are writing to you with full hearts of gratitude and hope. We want to thank you for your patience and support while we searched for a minister to serve our community. We are thrilled that Rev. Evan Young has accepted that position and we are hopeful that he can help to nurture the resilient FUUSM spirit with the goal of a thriving community in the Mid-Ohio Valley that serves as a model for UU values to each other and to our neighbors and friends.

In the past year, we have rallied to provide meaningful services without a full-time minister thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Worship Committee. Many of our members have supported efforts to keep the water in the Marietta area free from the pollutants of fracking. Most importantly, we have stuck together through a challenging time and came out on the other side stronger and more cohesive.

You are probably aware that we are amid the annual pledge drive for the fiscal year to begin on July 1, 2026 (FY27). We are happy to report that FUUSM is in relatively good financial condition, but as you know, the building needs continued maintenance, operating expenses continue to escalate, and our hard-working staff deserve fair compensation. FUUSM treasurer, Don Poole, reports that the projected operating budget of \$161,420 for FY27 is an increase of 12.6% over this fiscal year, mainly due to the addition of a paid part-time minister, but less than in prior years when we had a full-time minister. The board supports this budget and hopes that each of you can join us in that support.

Don will reach out to you in the coming days with information about how to continue your commitment to FUUSM and renew your pledge for FY27 or make a pledge for the first time. We encourage you to give generously and consider increasing your pledge to cover our additional expenses.

In loving community,

Vic Elam

President, FUUSM Board of Trustees