

# **The Confluence**

News of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta, OH

April 2024

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FUUSM office hours: 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday. The office is in the Religious Education (RE) building, the white house next to the church at 232 Third Street. Email Dawn at [fuusm.office@gmail.com](mailto:fuusm.office@gmail.com), or call (740) 373-1238. [Click Here for Information on Becoming a Member](#)

## **Sunday Services**

11 a.m. Sunday Mornings

Sunday, April 7 - On the Journey. A longtime member of the FUUSM congregation, Darryl Ting will share the story of his search for the meaning of his life and the steps along the way where he has found love and joy. Worship Leaders: The Membership Committee (Participants include Darryl and Cynthia Ting, Elaine Barr, and Adeline Bailey with contributions from other members.)

Sunday, April 14. "What Can One Little Person Do?"

Our shared home, Planet Earth, is currently experiencing extreme degradation and unprecedented climate change. Most scientists believe much of our planet's challenges are caused by human activity. We checked, and we're human, so what can we do to help heal the planet? Our individual everyday choices can have a huge impact on the health and wellbeing of both ourselves and Mother Earth. Members of the Green Sanctuary Committee will share their thoughts on what "one person" can do. Rebecca Phillips will serve as Worship Leader, and the choir will sing "We Can Plant a Forest", words & music by Jim Papoulis & Mike Greenly.



Sunday, April 21. We Are What We Eat. Service to be organized by Rev. Kat Hawbaker.

Sunday, April 28. An abbreviated service organized by Rev. Kat Hawbaker, followed by the Annual Congregational Meeting. Likely agenda items include: Reviewing the Budget, choosing delegates to the UUA Virtual Assembly in June, election of Board Members, voting on resolutions submitted by members. A packet of material will be distributed by email before the meeting.



## **Happy Birthday**

**Suzyn Mills (4/2) Ron Rees (4/7) Ginny McNeil (4/8) s Courtney Bills (4/10)  
Roger Patterson (4/13) Virginia Mayle (4/20) Bruce Henthorn (4/29)**



Easter in the Sanctuary. Photo from Jane Tumas-Serna

### **Calendar of Activities**

**[Click here for calendar updates during the month](#)**

**Monday, April 1: FUUSM OFFICE CLOSED (Just foolin'!!)**

- 2 p.m., Caring Committee via Zoom.

**Tuesday, April 2**

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

**Wednesday, April 3**

- Noon, Meditation via [Zoom](#). Also in person in the sanctuary to day only.
- 4 p.m., Worship & Music Committee meeting, RE parlor.
- 7 p.m., Private use of social hall (Diana Bonnell, Religious Trauma group)

**Friday, April 5**

- 9:30 a.m., Membership Committee meeting, RE parlor.
- 6 p.m., Private use of social hall (Laura Delancy, Stitch & ?itch).

**Sunday, April 7**

- 9:30 a.m., Choir practice, sanctuary. New members are always welcome!
- 9:30 a.m., New UU course, social hall.
- 11 a.m., Sunday service, sanctuary. Darryl Ting will present the reflection
- Coffee hour! Social hall. Ends at 1:30 p.m.

**Monday, April 8: FUUSM OFFICE CLOSED (Dawn taking a vacation day)**

**Tuesday, April 9: ALL COMMITTEE REPORTS DUE TO FUUSM OFFICE!**

- Noon, UU+ Women's Book Group, Parkersburg Country Club.
- 3:30–6:30 p.m., Girl Scout Troop in social hall.
- 6:30 p.m., FUUSM Service Auction tech training, social hall.

**Wednesday, April 10**

- Noon, Mediation via [Zoom](#).
- 6 p.m., Women's Group potluck, social hall. Dawn and Squish will host.

**Friday, April 12**

- **FUUSM Service Auction**



**Auctioneer Chris Jacobs in action at last year's Service Auction. Photo by Ralph Olander.**

**Saturday, April 13**

- 3–5 p.m., African drumming, social hall or courtyard

**Sunday, April 14**

- 9:30 a.m., Choir practice, sanctuary. New members are always welcome!
- 9:30 a.m., New UU course, social hall.
- 11 a.m., Sunday service, sanctuary. The Green Sanctuary Committee will present the reflection.
- 11 a.m., MOV Friends (Quaker) meeting, RE parlor.
- Coffee hour! Social hall. (Ends at 1:30 p.m.)



**Monday, April 15**

- 6:30 p.m., Board of Trustees meeting, RE parlor

**Tuesday, April 16**

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

**Wednesday, April 17**

- Noon, Meditation via [Zoom](#).
- 6 p.m., Men's Group potluck, social hall.

**Friday, April 19**

- 5 p.m., Brad Bond Celebration of Life.
- 6 p.m., Private use of RE parlor (Laura DeLancy's Stitch & ?itch)

**Saturday, April 20: May *Confluence* content due.**

- 10:30 a.m., Tai chi refresher, social hall.
- 6 p.m., Private group use of social hall (Betsy Kalter).

**Sunday, April 21**

- 9:30 a.m., New UU eight-week course. Contact Membership Committee chair Elaine Barr (elainebarr@gmail.com)
- 11 a.m., Sunday service, sanctuary. Rev. Kathryn Hawbaker will present the reflection on *We Are What We Eat*.
- Coffee hour! Social hall. Ends at 1:30 p.m.
- 12:30 p.m., Green Sanctuary Committee meeting, RE parlor.
- 2:30 p.m., film screening: *Common Ground*, social hall, presented by our Green Sanctuary Committee. Watch the trailer here: [2024 Featured Film – Common Ground \(interfaithpowerandlight.org\)](https://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org)

**Monday, April 22**

- 7 p.m., Finance Committee meeting via Zoom.

**Tuesday, April 23**

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

**Wednesday, April 24**

- Noon, Meditation via [Zoom](#).

**Sunday, April 28**

- 9:30 a.m., Choir practice, sanctuary. New members are always welcome!
- 9:30 a.m., Buildings & Grounds Committee, RE upstairs meeting room.
- 9:30 a.m., New UU course, social hall.
- 11 a.m., abbreviated Sunday service, sanctuary. Annual Congregational Meeting to follow.
- 11 a.m., MOV Friends (Quakers) meeting RE parlor.
- Coffee hour! Social hall. Ends at 1:30 p.m.

**Monday, April 29**

- 2 p.m., Caring committee via Zoom,

**Tuesday, April 30**

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

**Monday, May 1**

- Noon, Meditation via Zoom.

**Thursday, May 2**

- 5:30–8 p.m., outside group rental of social hall (Cindy Brown)

**Saturday, May 18**

- 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Plant sale, FUUSM courtyard.

**Monday, May 27: Memorial Day, FUUSM Office closed.**

**Sunday, June 9**

- 1:30-3 p.m., Kitchen reserved for service auction class (Stassa Phillips)

**Sunday, June 30**

- 7 p.m. Valley Gem Cruise. Service Auction Fixed Price Event, \$35.00 Photo is of last year's cruise



FUUSM paddlewheel cruise on June 11, 2023 passing the American Countess Photo by editor.

Thursday, July 4: FUUSM Office closed.

Sunday, Sept. 15

- 12:30 p.m., Board of Trust Governors, RE UPSTAIRS meeting room.

Thursday, Sept. 19

- 5:30–8 p.m., private group use of social hall (Cindy Brown)

Saturday, Sept. 21

- Sanctuary reserved for wedding (Minda Banziger)

Friday, Oct. 18

- 5 p.m., Puzzle Party (service auction item), social hall.

### **The Board wishes to honor and give special recognition to Cathy Rees**



Our UU Community has been greatly enriched and cared for with the loving stewardship of Cathy Rees. This month the Board of Trustees voted to honor her wonderful contributions as the driving force behind our Caring Committee. This past month, when the DeLancy family suffered the unexpected loss of their beloved Brodie, Cathy quickly and expertly organized a platoon of volunteers to provide food after the memorial service for over 120 individuals. She created sign-up sheets, organized the food needs and encouraged all of us to pitch in. Because she made it easy, many of us answered the call. [And, all of this within two weeks!] When you see Cathy, tell her thanks—her hard work did not go unnoticed. More importantly, she helped us support the DeLancy family. Thank you Cathy. Sent by Robin Bozian

### **Valley Gem Cruise June 30**

This year's FUUSM cruise will be Sunday, June 30, from 5 to 7 pm. This is a \$35 fixed price event at the Service Auction. Food and nonalcoholic drinks are included, there will also be a cash bar. Here is a picture from last year's cruise:



### **An Invitation to UU The Vote**

From Jane Tumas-Serna

I received an email that invited me to the 2024 launch of UU the Vote which arrived at the same time as the Ohio primary election. The election results in the Ohio primary make clear the challenge before us locally and in the state. I want to make the

connection between this local challenge and the larger project of UU the Vote and its work with Side with Love.

The email invites us to their website: Will you join us? Get started by downloading our 2024 UU the Vote Launch Guide. You can find the full recording and slides of our launch here. For some excerpts from the mailing they sent, click here: [UU the Vote](#). For more information contact Jane Tumas-Serna at [jtumas.serna@gmail.com](mailto:jtumas.serna@gmail.com)

### **A Creative Expression Portal is Coming**

Each month the Design and Decorate Committee decorates the Sanctuary to enhance in meditative, relevant and meaningful ways the theme for the month as set by the Worship and Music committee. We are developing a new project: The Creative Expression Portal at the back of the Sanctuary. On the ledge, the glass case and extended spaces artists and creatives can participate by displaying their art objects such as paintings, drawings, photos; processes and performances, such as dance, music and readings based on the theme for the month:



April — Interdependence Earth Day and the Green Sanctuary

May — Pluralism The Family, and Memorial Day

June — LGBTQ+ Month; Juneteenth; and UUA General Assembly

For more information on the committee's activities click on [Design and Decorate Committee](#). The contact person is Jane Tumas-Serna at [jtumas.serna@gmail.com](mailto:jtumas.serna@gmail.com).

### **Books for Young People at Ramadan and Passover**

From Martha McGovern

Two major holidays for world religions are being celebrated in April this year. In Islam, Ramadan extends from March 10 through April 9. In Judaism, Passover begins on April 22 and ends on April 30. Here are a few books from the Search for Truth Library for Young People that can introduce these holidays to young people.

Ramadan

*My First Ramadan* by Karen Katz Scholastic

*The White Nights of Ramadan* by Maha Addasi, illus. by Ned Gannon Boyds Mills Press

*Let's Celebrate Ramadan & Eid* by Ajanta & Vivek Bollywood Groove

*Under the Ramadan Moon* by Sylvia Whitman, illus. by Sue Williams Albert Whitman & Co.



### Passover

*The Matzah That Papa Brought Home* by Fran Manushkin, illus. by Ned Bittinger Scholastic

*The Tale of Two Seders* by Mindy Avra Portnoy, illus. by Valeria Cis Kar-Ben Publishing

**Please Sign Up to Help with Coffee Hour & Cleanup**



The current schedule of Coffee Hour & Cleanup volunteers will run through March 31. But starting in April, let's try something new: Will you sign up to help out with Coffee Hour just six times per year? Please claim the first or second or third or fourth Sunday of every odd month, or every even month, and email [dawnbirder@gmail.com](mailto:dawnbirder@gmail.com) with your preference. (Coordinating Coffee Hour is not in the church lady's job description.) Six times of year on a regular schedule? That's not too demanding, is it? Coffee Hour depends upon volunteers, and if not enough people step up, what will we do?? Please sign up!

### **Plant Sale May 18**

This year's FUUSM plant sale will be held on Saturday, May 18, from 10-2, and of course, we need plants. If your garden has produced extras, or if your house plants are outgrowing their containers, please consider potting them up for this annual fundraiser for our buildings and



grounds fund. And of course, we will need volunteers to price, set up, and sell, so consider donating time even if you have no plants this year. (And you will be hearing from us again.)



Photo from last year's plant sale. By Ralph Olander.

### We Passed our Fire Inspection But....

Marietta Fire Inspector Frosty Schneider walked through all rooms in both the RE Building and Sanctuary on March 21, and we passed! However, in the kitchen there were flammable items—baskets and cardboard boxes—on top of shelves, putting them too close to the ceiling—a safety hazard in case of fire. Roger Kalter accompanied Inspector Schneider, and removed most of them during the inspection. Whew. Thank you, Roger!

**Please, do not store flammable items on top of the upper shelves!** Metal and glass items are okay, but nothing flammable. Sent by Dawn Hewitt

### Green Sanctuary to Screen *Common Ground* on April 21

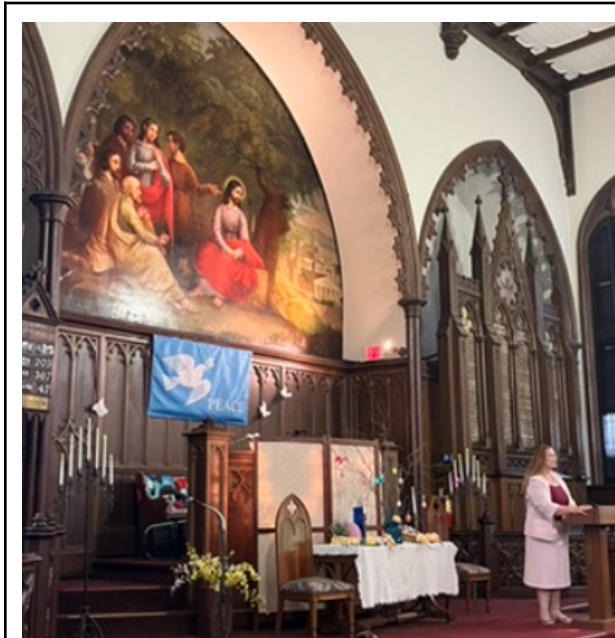
*Common Ground* is a new film about how regenerating the world's soils has the potential to rapidly stabilize Earth's climate, restore lost ecosystems, and create abundant food supplies. This film explains why transitioning to regenerative agriculture could be key in rehabilitating the planet while simultaneously invigorating a new sense of hope and inspiration in viewers. People are calling *Common Ground* "The Most Important Film You'll Ever Watch" -- which is a really big claim. *But it just may be true.*



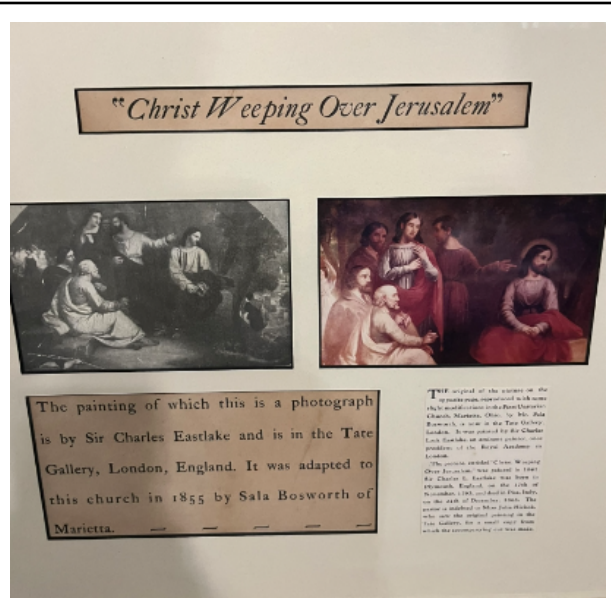
View the trailer: [2024 Featured Film – Common Ground \(interfaithpowerandlight.org\)](https://interfaithpowerandlight.org)  
Through the generosity of Interfaith Power and Light, the Green Sanctuary Committee will be hosting an in-person screening of this powerful film in the FUUSM Social Hall on

April 21 at 2:30pm. Thanks to IPL's partnership with the film team @commongroundfilm this event is free!

Sign up with Adeline Bailey to attend: [adesign4199@gmail.com](mailto:adesign4199@gmail.com)



Reverend Kat Hawbaker at the Easter Service. The mural, painted when the church was built, is a copy by Sala Bosworth of a painting now in the Tate Gallery, London, by Sir Charles Lock Eastlake



A plaque on the back wall of the sanctuary compares a photograph of the original by Sir Charles Lock Eastlake to the version by Sala Bosworth. Which do you like better? The title of both paintings is "Christ Weeping Over Jerusalem." What he is crying about is not explained.


## Save the Seven Principles

Opinion from Ted Goertzel

The Seven Principles have been a tradition in our Congregation. We often recite them as an Affirmation in worship services, and we have them on the wall in the social hall. Many members find them inspiring and some have even memorized them. Now there is a movement in the UUA to replace them with a statement of shared values illustrated with a color-keyed diagram. I find the replacement uninspiring. I am going to propose a motion in the Congregational Meeting: "FUUSM renews its support for the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism and asks our representatives at the UUA General Assembly to vote to retain them." I am NOT saying the UUA should NOT adopt the new statement with the multicolored image, if people like it they can have it as an additional statement. I'm just saying we should not junk the Seven Principles.

**The UUA can't force us to change the FUUSM Affirmation or the FUUSM Covenant. But what the UUA seeks to do is to change its principles, which is the basis for our Affirmation, and our Affirmation is the basis for our Covenant. So, if the UUA abandons or otherwise changes its Seven Principles, it will have ramifications or at least implications on all UUA congregational Affirmations and Covenants, including ours. At least, that is my understanding.  
Comment from Dawn Hewitt**

Here are the Seven Principles and the proposed replacement so you can compare. Of course, the proposals may change in the course of the GA's deliberations.:

<p><b>DELETE THE 7 PRINCIPLES:</b></p> <p><del>Section C-2.1. Principles.</del></p> <p><del>We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote</del></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>• The inherent worth and dignity of every person;</del></li> <li><del>• Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;</del></li> <li><del>• Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;</del></li> <li><del>• A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;</del></li> <li><del>• The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;</del></li> <li><del>• The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;</del></li> <li><del>• Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.</del></li> </ul>	<p><b>REPLACE PRINCIPLES WITH:</b></p> <p><b>Section C-2.2. Values and Covenant.</b></p> <p>As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our Association, to support and assist one another in our ministries. We draw from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love.</p> <p>Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.</p> <p>Inseparable from one another, these shared values are:</p> <p><b>Shared Unitarian Universalist Values</b></p> 
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## Some Thoughts on the Proposed Revision of Article II

Opinion from Martha McGovern

I thought I'd join the conversation about the proposed revision of Article II. I am still up in the air in my thinking. I don't see that the revision would conflict with any of the principles we now hold. I do see that it emphasizes different aspects of UUism. Over my life, I've come to see that many decisions that seem to be "either-or" can be resolved with a "both-and" approach. I see the value of the proposed visual. We have become a very visually oriented culture. The image depicts how the central chalice light of LOVE becomes enacted through the guidance of key values. I also appreciate the emphasis on covenant, especially since it so clearly distinguishes Unitarian Universalism from creedal faiths.

Even in the most recent revision, I am still grappling with the words that are highlighted and their explanations. I am okay with Pluralism, Interdependence, Generosity, and Transformation as they are explained. I am uncomfortable with the word "Equity." In today's society, its commonly used meaning has narrowed to apply to the value of a business or property. I would prefer "Equality." It still carries the historical meaning of having equal rights, privileges, and status. Also,

the word “worthiness” in the current explanation falls in the same category as the word “truthiness.” I would use the word “sanctity.”

In fact, I would combine the sections of Equity and Justice and use the label Justice. Suggested Wording: Justice. We declare that every person is endowed with inherent sanctity and dignity and has the right to flourish. We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities. We will dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression and work for the Common Good.

I would then add a separate section of Democracy. Again, our organization and modes of operating are distinguished by our application of democratic principles and processes. I think much of the wording in the explanation of the current section of Justice could be moved to this section: We support the application of democratic principles and processes in our congregations and in society at large. We covenant to use inclusive democratic processes in governance and decision-making toward the creation of diverse, multicultural Beloved Communities.

## **Board Briefs**

by Nancy Luthy

**Board members: Vic Elam, Ron Rees, Shari Ballantyne, Karen Binkley, Nancy Luthy, Robin Bozian, Darryl Ting, Rev. Kat on Sabbatical. All Board members were present at the March 11th meeting. Don Poole, Treasurer, joined on Zoom.**

**The Treasurer's Report was lengthy:**

- **We are over budget, but by year's end we will be only slightly over budget and we have adequate income. The proposed COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) will add \$10,081.76. This has not been addressed since 2021. Robin moved: The Board approves the COLA recommendation. Karen seconded. The motion passed.**
- **Don will meet with the Finance Committee and prepare a proposed 2024-2025 Budget to be presented to the Board at its March 15th meeting. The proposed budget will then be sent to the Congregation to peruse before the Annual Meeting on April 28th.**

**Congregational Concerns: The Board shared expectations in preparation for our meeting with Mike Moore (mediator/counselor). After a lengthy discussion it became clear that many members of the Board desired a fact-finding approach instead of mediation. Robin moved: “The Board shall appoint a two-person fact-finding committee to address the grievances expressed at the dialogue sessions.” Shari seconded. The motion passed: 5 yeas and 2 nays.**

**The Board wants the fact-finding process to move forward during Rev.Kat's sabbatical and we hope for completion soon after she officially returns at the end of June.**

**Service Recognition Award – Cathy Rees.**



Easter Egg Roll photos

## Have YOU Read FUUSM's Congregational Covenant? Opinion by Dawn Hewitt

Inspired by Beth Casebolt's reflection on March 17, I looked up the FUUSM Covenant. I know our Affirmation by heart, but the Covenant???

I joined FUUSM without taking a New UU course—which I now regret. There is so much I didn't know about FUUSM! My decision to join was based primarily on the Affirmation, which I hold dear (except for the word "human," which I think should be deleted). But I was unfamiliar with the FUUSM Covenant until I came across it in the FUUSM Policies & Procedures Manual that lives on the table in the RE parlor. The Covenant is Document #1.3, and was approved in October 2003. This is a document that we, as FUUSM members, implicitly agree to when we sign the book, although FUUSM "friends" are included. I think reading and agreeing to this Covenant should be an explicit requirement for signing the book.

The Covenant is also on the FUUSM.org website, but it is necessary to log in to get our policies and procedures. If you can log in to FUUSM.org, you can find it here: <https://fuusm.org/index.php?page=policies-procedures>

But for your convenience, here it is. Please read it:

## **First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta Congregational Covenant**

We, the members and friends of the first Unitarian Universalist society of Marietta, pledge to treat one another in accordance with the principles of the Society's affirmation.

Our first obligation is to act with mutual respect in all of our church relationships.

We will use clear, direct, honest, and loving communication in reaching congregational decisions and resolving conflict within the congregation.

When reaching congregational decisions:

- We will base decisions on the principles outlined in our affirmation.
- We will base decisions on principles that support the health and well-being of the Society.
- We will reach decisions through the utilization of an inclusive, deliberate, and patient consensus building process before a vote is taken.
- We will respect both those with majority and with dissenting opinions.
- We will actively take part in the Society's decision making process and accept the responsibility of keeping informed of decisions made.

Once a congregational decision has been made:

- We will use at least five modes of communication to announce our decisions.
- We will respect congregational decisions once they have been reached.

When resolving conflict within the congregation:

- We will commit to develop and practice those communication skills which promote conflict resolution.
- We will commit to settle conflicts as soon as they arise.
- We will follow and lovingly remind each other to follow the Society's "Conflict Resolution Procedure".
- We will give and receive forgiveness.

THIS WE PLEDGE TO DO AS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MARIETTA.

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By the way, FUUSM's Conflict Resolution Procedure, referenced in the covenant, is document #3.5 in the book on the table in the RE parlor, and also on the FUUSM website at the link provided above.

Beth said that when a member or friend violates the covenant, we bring it to their attention, and then help them do what it takes to come back in line with our agreement. That makes so much sense for an organization that strives for inclusivity.

Five modes of communication to announce decisions? That's hard to fathom in 2003--and even today. Hmmm.... 1) in the Confluence 2) verbally as announcements during Sunday services 3) printed (and emailed) in the Order of Service 4) text messages? 5) Uh, smoke signals? the Wayside Pulpit (hahahaha)??

While our Affirmation has a prominent position on the home page of FUUSM.org, it seems to me that our Covenant should be, too. In my opinion, we need to be as familiar with our Covenant as we are with our Affirmation, and remind ourselves of that important agreement on a regular basis.

Submitted by Dawn Hewitt

## **The Today's Issues Group is on Hiatus**

The Today's Issues group has been part of FUUSM for approximately 15 years, meeting at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. It was originally led by Pat McGovern, Martha's late husband. But several of the regular participants have passed away or moved away and attendance has been irregular. The group may call an occasional meeting if a particularly compelling issue should come up. Resuming regular meetings would require a core leadership committee.