

The Confluence

News of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta, Ohio

April 2026

tedgoertzel@gmail.com editor

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, Marietta, OH 45750. Email Dawn at fuusm.office@gmail.com, or call (740) 373-1238. Rev. Evan Young is available by appointment Mondays and Thursdays (remotely, via phone or Zoom) noon-3:30 p.m., and in his office Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Email him at fuusm.minister@gmail.com, or call (740) 373-1238 to make an appointment with him.

[Click Here for Information on Becoming a Member](#)

Worship Services

In the sanctuary at Third and Putnam streets, Marietta, Ohio.
Also streamed live on the FUUSM Facebook page & via [Zoom link](#).

Theme for April: Transformation: Embracing Possibility

April 5 EASTER: Resurrection, Mystery, Miracle

In the natural world outside our doors, spring brings the return of abundant life and the greening of what had long seemed dead. In the Christian world, Easter marks what has become the faith's defining moment and perhaps its boldest promise – that death can be overcome. One seems inevitable; the other, impossible. And both can break our frozen hearts open again. Let us rejoice together!

Worship Leader: Rev. Evan Young WA: Suzyn Mills



April 12 Sustainability: Preserving Life, Enacting Hope



This service is inspired by the 2026 theme of the National Women's History Alliance (NWAH): *Leading the Change – Women Shaping a Sustainable Future*. Their Board of Directors notes, "Women's leadership affirms a simple truth: sustainability is not only about preserving nature; it is about preserving life." Editors of the March 2026 NWAH Magazine observe, "In this pivotal

moment of history, we are called to confront a range of overlapping global challenges: climate change, economic insecurity, healthcare disparities, and threats to democratic participation." In this service, we will highlight numerous women who have answered such complex calls. How can their stories encourage and guide us as we confront these challenges in our own everyday lives?

Special Music: CHOIR under the direction of Martha Webster – "The Beauty of Life" by Robert S. Cohen (music); Ronald W. Cadmus (poem)

Worship Leader: Martha McGovern with Katy McDaniel and others

April 19 No Fear

So much of the world, and in the world, encourages our fear. And in many ways, our fears seem like rational responses to the way things are. On the other hand, those whose wisdom we value have a lot to say about fear as an obstacle, an obstacle to our moving toward the world we seek. In this service, we'll consider some theological approaches to and understandings of fear. What are its sources? What are our possible response options?

Worship Leader: Rev. Evan Young

WA: Nancy Luthy



April 26 J.D. Stillwater – “Magic Recipes: Science and the Profound Meaning of Spring”

J.D. Stillwater, well-known UU Science Ambassador, shared this preview of his program: Eggs and seeds are quintessential symbols of birth and spring, but did you ever really contemplate the magic that hides inside them? The new science of emergence is like $1 + 1 =$ poetry; it's magic, but also rigorous science, and spring is full of this magical unfolding. The secret is (shhh . . .) we are that magic, too!

This special service has been made possible through collaboration with Athens Fellowship. They will join us for the service and for a potluck lunch afterward. Look for more details as the date gets closer.



Calendar of Events

Wednesday, April 1: Don't be an April Fool!

- 10:15 a.m., **Worship & Music Committee**, RE parlor

Thursday, April 2

- 2:05 p.m., FUUSM Auction Quartet practice, RE parlor

Sunday, April 5

- 9:30 a.m., **Choir practice**, sanctuary.
- 11 a.m., **Sunday service**, sanctuary, Zoom and Facebook
- **Coffee hour!** Social hall. Ends at 1 p.m.



Monday, April 6

- 2 p.m., **Caring Committee** meeting via Zoom.
- 6:30 p.m., **Board of Trustees** meeting, RE parlor

Tuesday, April 7

- 3:30–6:30, Girl Scouts in social hall
- 4:30, private use of RE parlor (Roger Kalter)

Wednesday, April 8

- 6 p.m., **Women's Group** potluck, social hall. Cindy Brown will host.

Thursday, April 9

- 5 p.m., MOV Indivisible, sanctuary.
- 6 p.m., **Rosebud (Plant Sale)** meeting, RE parlor

Sunday, April 12

- 9:30 a.m., **Choir practice**, sanctuary.
- 11 a.m., **Sunday service**, sanctuary, Zoom and Facebook
- 11 a.m., MOV Friends meeting (Quakers), RE parlor.
- **Coffee hour!** Social hall. Ends at 1 p.m.



Tuesday, April 14

- 3:30–6:30, Girl Scouts in social hall
- 4:30, private use of RE parlor (Roger Kalter)

Wednesday, April 15

- 6 p.m., **Men's Group potluck**, hosted by Ted Goertzel

Friday, April 17

- 5:30 p.m., **Music of the Sayyids and the Dervishes**. An evening of piano music in the musical idiom of the Middle East, performed by Randall Kidder. **(see below)**

Saturday, April 18

- 10:30 a.m., **Tai Chi reunion**, social hall.

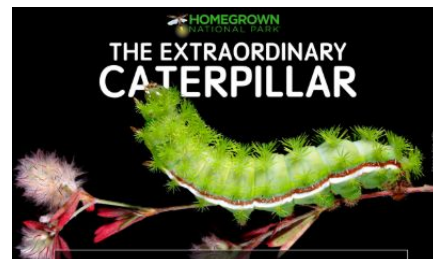
Sunday, April 19

- 9:30 a.m., **Choir practice**, sanctuary.
- 9:30 a.m., **Religious Exploration Class**, social hall.
- 11 a.m., **Sunday service**, sanctuary, Zoom and Facebook
- **Coffee hour!** Social hall. Ends at 1 p.m.
- 12:15ish, **Green Sanctuary Committee**, RE parlor.

Monday, April 20: May *Confluence* content due

Tuesday, April 21

- 3:30–6:30, Girl Scouts in social hall
- 4:30, private use of RE parlor (Roger Kalter)



Wednesday, April 22: Earth Day

- 7 p.m., **free film screening of *The Extraordinary Caterpillar***, hosted by the Green Sanctuary Committee. Please come! It's a wonderful movie— not a made-for-children film, but curious children would enjoy it, too.

Friday, April 24

- 11 a.m., **Celebration of life for Margaret Fredericks**

Saturday, April 25

- 9 a.m. –2 p.m., Household Hazardous Waste Collection,

[See the full diital calendar for details](#) and updated information on the Hazardous Waste Collection, for Washington County Residents only, and on subsequent events)

Easter Egg Hunt on April 5

We will be having an Easter Egg Hunt on April 5th in the courtyard during coffee hour. We encourage children of all ages to participate! Come join the fun!
Stephanie "Squish" Thomas



Music of Sayyids and Dervishes at 5:30 on Friday April 17

An evening of piano music in the musical idiom of the Middle East, performed by Randall Kidder. Sayyids and Dervishes occupies a special place in the body of works by Armenian philosopher, composer and mystic George Ivanovitch Gurdjieff (1877-1949) and Ukrainian composer Thomas De Hartmann (1885-1956). (<https://www.gfnyc.org/>) Meditative and mindful, these compositions stem from melodies and music Gurdjieff heard in remote monasteries in Asia and the Middle East. The Dervish pieces are often characterized by powerful dance rhythms, full of spiritual fervor, while the music of the Sayyids presents more of a mystery. During the two intermissions, guests will enjoy a sumptuous selection of Middle Eastern mezze, desserts, and beverages. Those who attended the 2025 FUUSM service auction paid \$35 for each ticket. This event is open to the public, and attendees are encouraged to donate, with all donations going to FUUSM.



Thank You for Your Pledge

If we have contacted you regarding the pledge drive for fiscal year 2026/2027 and you have responded, **thank you**. If you have not had a chance to respond, we'd appreciate your doing so as soon as possible. We are trying to finalize the budget for FY27 which begins in July 2026. If we have not contacted you personally and you would like to make a pledge please [follow this link to the pledge form](#) and return it to the church office or email it to dpoolecpa@gmail.com.

Sent by Don Poole, Treasurer

Service Recognition Award Carol Garoza and Cindy Brown



Carol Garoza



Cindy Brown

The FUUSM board has unanimously recognized Carol Garoza and Cindy Brown for their service in leading the annual Empty Bowls event. Although this event has grown far beyond FUUSM, it began as a FUUSM effort spearheaded by Caroline Putnam. Carol and Cindy became part of Empty Bowls through very different routes but both of them became part of Empty Bowls through FUUSM.

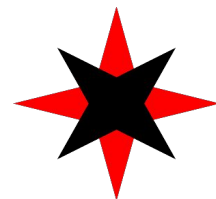
Carol Garoza grew up in White Plains, NY (right outside NYC) and lived in New York and Massachusetts. She obtained her teaching degree from the State University of New York at Albany and taught in Massachusetts while her husband completed his graduate education. He received a job offer to teach at Marietta College and Carol came with him in 1974. This area was very different from what she was used to in the east and she initially told him she would only stay here for a year. Fortunately, she is still here 52 years later. In 1983, Carol returned to teaching at Harmar Elementary School as an art teacher. It was through the outreach of Cynthia Ting and Caroline Putnam that she became part of Empty Bowls. They visited her art classes and Carol's students made bowls for the event. Over time she became more involved in other aspects of Empty Bowls and Caroline asked Carol to go with her to visit the restaurants that donated soup. At the conclusion of these visits, Caroline turned to her and said "Okay, now that you know how to do this it's yours." Fortunately Carol continued and, through Empty Bowls, met a number of UU members. About four years ago she came to FUUSM and was very impressed with the warm welcome she received. She felt much more at home than she had felt at the church that she had attended previously and became an active part of FUUSM.

Cindy Brown had a very different journey. She grew up in Marietta and her mother attended FUUSM. She graduated from Marietta High School and enrolled at Marshall University where she received her teaching degree. But rather than moving directly into teaching, she enrolled at the University of Kentucky and earned her Master's of Library Science degree there. She worked at the public library in Boone County, Kentucky until her retirement in 2009. Her mother had continued to live in Marietta and was having health challenges so Cindy moved back to Marietta in 2010. Cindy had known George and Gwen Banziger before and Gwen recruited her to be part of the committee providing community meals. Cindy found that many of the people she met volunteering for community entities were members of FUUSM and that appealed to her commitment to volunteerism. Carol Garoza recruited her to be part of Empty Bowls and the rest, as they say, is history.

We are very fortunate to have these two leading the Empty Bowls effort.

One Hour of Silent Witness on April 26

The Mid-Ohio Valley Friends Meeting (Quakers) invites people of all faiths



to gather for a one hour meeting of silent worship to share witness, to affirm justice and dignity, and to build hope.

Sunday, April 26th
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Lawn of the Marietta Armory, 241 Front St.

Across the country, Friends and people of all faiths are gathering in Quaker-led silent worship in public spaces to share witness and show collective 'Love as Action' on April 25-26th.



This event reflects core Quaker principles—peace, equality, integrity, and community - by taking action publicly, and affirming our commitment to justice and compassion.

Together, we affirm that every person has worth, that fear and violence must give way to love and fairness, and that our communities thrive when all are welcomed.

For more information on Love as Action: <https://afsc.org/love-action>.

If you have any questions about the vigil, contact Movquakers@gmail.com

Participants are asked to bring their own chairs. *Sent by Kelcey Jacobs*

Plant and Bake Sale May 9



The FUUSM Plant and Bake Sale will be held May 9th from 10-2. We are in need of donations of plants and baked goods, as well as volunteers. Drop off plants and baked goods on May 7th from 2-6, and on May 8th from 9-2 during set up. There will be a sign up sheet during coffee hour. Please consider donating or volunteering. Sales from this event

benefit the repairs and restorations of our beautiful church.

Sent by Stephanie "Squish" Thomas

Interested in Working on Social Justice Issues?

Rose Reed is interested in restarting a Social Justice group. If this rings your bell, please talk to Rosie before or after the Sunday service. *Submitted by Dawn Hewit;*

Members in Action



Tom Flis and Jim Reed repair fellowship hall chairs. 35 repaired, 31 to go. Volunteers needed before Margaret Fredericks' Celebration of Life April 24



Darryl Ting and Building and Grounds Chair Linda Lewis examine 171 year old flooring for soft spots and trip hazards.



Fourteen members and friends volunteered for projects including decluttering, which never ends, chair repairs, gumball removal, composting, sandstone preparation for courtyard removal, kitchen and bride's room clearing, sump cleaning, electrical system evaluation and fellowship with an out of state family with a son enrolling in Marietta College.



Vic Elam demonstrates operation of the Automatic Electronic Defibrillator to Nana Redd and Scott Lacey. The Dummy's name is Second Chance Serah. *Photos and text by Roger Kalter.*

New Lost & Found Bin Has It All!

Lose a pair of readers in the FUUSM sanctuary? a baseball cap in the RE building? a sweater... somewhere, maybe on a Sunday morning? a make-up case in the women's room? a coffee mug lid during Today's Issues or Quaker Meeting, maybe?

All FUUSM lost-and-found has been combined into one big plastic bin that lives under the "newcomer table" in the social hall. If you lost something in the RE building, sanctuary, or courtyard, check there first. All items that remain in the bin at the time of the next yard sale (whenever it happens) will be offered for sale at that time!

submitted by church lady Dawn and building steward Wendy

Board Briefs

March 2, 2026

Board Members present: Vic Elam, Ron Rees , Darryl Ting, Robin Bozian, Lloyd Elliot, Shari Ballantyne, Don Poole (via Zoom), Evan Young (minister)

February minutes stand as published.

No treasurer's report was presented.

Old Business:

1. We are still working on establishing a trust with MCF so that members can make gifts to FUUSM from their estates.
2. The board has agreed on a disruptive behavior policy which will be circulated to the congregation at a future date, possibly at the upcoming annual meeting.

New Business:

1. Evan presented his Minister's Report. He mentioned he and Rev. Hilary Krivchenia are working on mutual accountability standards.
2. Evan stated he was concerned about the confidentiality clause in Rev. Kat's resignation; Robin indicated this was at the UUA's direction.
3. Evan indicated he was concerned with the "Chalice Lighting Project" and whether we should proceed. Vic will contact Beth to see what we need to do to move forward; Darryl is open to co-chairing a committee to look into this.



4. There was a discussion on why the church has so many committees and is it possible to perhaps combine some of their responsibilities. Vic said he was concerned that with a relatively small congregation there are members who are on multiple committees. Having fewer committees, but with more responsibilities, might take the pressure off the congregation. It was left open if there are some committee functions that could be combined.

5. The Church's Annual Meeting will be held on May 17th. It was decided that this year the Annual Meeting be held in the Recreation Hall. This would enable a clear break between the service and the meeting, and, since the hall is smaller, it should make for a more informal meeting with more involvement from the congregation.

6. Carol Garoza and Cindy Brown were nominated for this month's Service

Recognition. Ron will do the write up and Shari will send the card.
Adjournment at 8:00 p.m.
Next regular board meeting is April 6, 2026
Respectfully submitted, Betsy Liller, Secretary

No Kings Rally Marietta March 28

