

The Confluence

News of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta, Ohio

August 2025

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.

[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 F.U.U.S.M. Facebook page & via [Zoom link](#).

Aug 3 Gender Liberation

Please join us for a thoughtful reflection by FUUSM member Aurora Davis. She will weave her personal story into an exploration of the concept of *gender liberation*. What would a future world with gender liberation look like? Would it mean the total absence of gender as a differentiating identifier? Would it mean gender justice? How would such a world work? Is such a world even possible?

Worship Leaders: Betsy Liller, Martha McGovern
Speaker: Aurora Davis



Aug 10 Haiku as Meditation

In response to requests for more services devoted to meditation, we are happy to welcome Nicole Livengood to our Social Hall for a participatory service that will lead us through the experience of composing haiku as a mode of meditation. A scholar of literature and an active writer, Nicole has found that the process of creating haiku calms the noise of the world and helps her center.

[See Nicole's Substack Here](#).

Worship Leader: Martha McGovern Guest Speaker: Nicole Livengood, Ph.D.

Consider the Snail

By Nicole Livengood

It abides, content,
Spiraled in chocolate and cream,
Models faith, not fear.

Aug 17 Creativity as a Driving Force

In this service, the long-time FUUSM member and very talented LeeAnn Gallucci will favor us with some thoughts on creativity and some music, as well. She feels strongly that the Arts are important throughout our lives—especially from a very young age. She will share some ways to nurture creativity in ourselves and in the young people around us.

Worship Leader: Suzyn Mills

Speaker: LeeAnn Gallucci



Aug 24 What Books Shall We Share? Dedication of the FUUSM Little Free Library.

As we dedicate our new Little Free Library, we are faced with the question of what books to share with the larger community. It seems like a good time to reflect on books that have had an impact on us and perhaps on young people in our lives. To spark our thinking, we will hear from several members of the congregation. There will be an opportunity to list suggestions. (And book donations are welcome, too.)

Worship Leaders: Shari Ballantyne, Martha McGovern Additional

Speakers: TBD

Aug 31 Democracy & Working-Class Solidarity Celebrating Labor Day

Many of us think of Labor Day as summer's last hurrah, but this national holiday, established by Congress in 1894, gives us an opportunity to honor our nation's workers and to recognize their contributions to the well-being of the country. In our current days of societal changes and disruption, what role do unions play? Calling on his experience, Eric Engle, chief steward of National Treasury Employees Union Chapter 190, will explain his stand that unions are more than just service organizations and that there can be no democracy without working-class solidarity. Chapter 190 represents workers at the Bureau of Fiscal Services in Parkersburg.

Worship Leader: Adeline Bailey Guest Speaker: Eric Engle

Calendar of Events

[Click here for an updated calendar as the month goes along.](#)

Friday, August 1

- 9 a.m. – noon: Yard sale and bake sale dropoff and setup. Helpers needed!

Saturday, August 2

- 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., **FUUSM Yard Sale**, social hall and courtyard. Helpers needed!
- 4 p.m. – ?? p.m. Yard sale cleanup. Helpers needed.



Sunday, August 3

- 9:30 a.m., **New UU class**, social hall: Religious Education ... Religious Diversity
- 11 a.m., **Sunday service**, sanctuary.
- **Coffee hour!** Social hall. Ends at 1 p.m.

Monday, August 4

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

Tuesday, August 5

- 2:30–6:30 p.m., Girl Scouts in social hall.

Wednesday, August 6

- 5 p.m., **Worship & Music Committee** meeting, RE parlor.

Saturday, August 9

- 9:30–10:30 a.m., **Tai Chi for beginners**, social hall (Darryl Ting).

Sunday, August 10

- 9:30 a.m., **New UU class**, social hall: Social Justice ... Political Diversity
- 11 a.m., **Sunday service**, social hall
- 11 a.m., MOV Friends (Quakers) in RE Parlor
- **Coffee hour!** Social hall. Ends at 1 p.m.



Tuesday, August 12

- 2:30–6:30 p.m., Girl Scouts in social hall.

Wednesday, August 13

- 6 p.m., **Women's Group potluck**, social hall.

Saturday, August 16

- 9:30–10:30 a.m., **Tai Chi for beginners**, social hall (Darryl Ting).
- 10:30 a.m., **Tai Chi reunion**

Sunday, August 17

- 9:30 a.m., **New UU class**, social hall: FUUSM Congregation ... Governance, Covenant & Participation
- 11 a.m., **Sunday service**, sanctuary.
- **Coffee hour!** Social hall. Ends at 1 p.m.
- 12:30ish, **Green Sanctuary Committee** meeting, RE parlor.



Tuesday, August 19

- 2:30–6:30 p.m., Girl Scouts in social hall.

Wednesday, August 20

- 6 p.m., **Men's Group potluck**, social hall. Jim Grecni will host.

Saturday, August 23

- 9:30–10:30 a.m., **Tai Chi for beginners**, social hall (Darryl Ting).

Sunday, August 24

- 9:30 a.m., **Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting**, RE parlor and Zoom
- 11 a.m., **Sunday service**, sanctuary.
- **Coffee hour!** Social hall. Ends at 1 p.m.

Monday, August 25

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

Tuesday, August 26

- 2:30–6:30 p.m., Girl Scouts in social hall.

Saturday, August 30

- 9:30–10:30 a.m., **Tai Chi for beginners**, social hall (Darryl Ting).

Sunday, August 31

- 11 a.m., **Sunday service**, sanctuary.
- **Coffee hour!** Social hall. Ends at 1 p.m.

FUUSM Opens Two Libraries

The Little Library



Thanks to Shari (donor), her son (builder), and Vic (installer), we have a lovely little library in the brick area near the sidewalk between the sanctuary and the RE building! Now, we need books. Not just any books, but books you'd recommend, and think others would enjoy. (Not dusty old chemistry textbooks from 1975.) **We especially need books for kids.** Note: This is the kind of library where there's no obligation to return the book, so please donate only books you're willing to part with. Bonus points for books that reflect UU values, but we are unlikely to ban books (except maybe dusty old chemistry textbooks, etc.). Rather than loading the library yourself, please leave your

donated books in a box labeled "FUUSM FREE LIBRARY" that will be in the entryway of the RE building, and we'll add them after vetting.

Story sent by Dawn Hewitt

The Bigger Library

We also have a much larger collection of books that are on shelves in the parlor of the RE building and in the Minister's Office. Children's books are shelved in the small classroom upstairs. These books have been an underutilized resource because they are hard to peruse, but Squish Rector has been at work cataloging them so you can now view the titles, authors and descriptive information by clicking on the links below. They are also linked from fuusm.org thanks to Ralph Olander. Ralph reports that *"I have added an Announcement about this. I have also made a more permanent posting for the RE bldg. library under 'Resources' in the private 'Members and Friends' area. I also reference the Sidewalk Library in the 'Worship and Programs' area."*

You can check these books out by informing Dawn Hewlitt, our church lady, that you have taken one. It's best to visit during her office hours when the building will be open. Here are the links:

[Books in the RE Parlor](#) [Children's Books](#) [Books in the Minister's Office](#)



If you are looking for music, hymns, videos and other materials designed for use in worship services, you can link to the UUA's [WorshipWeb Library](#).

Service Award: Vic Elam



The board is pleased to announce that this month's service recognition award recipient is Vic Elam, the president of the board. Vic has agreed to serve another term as president in this important time. In addition to his leadership role he has been involved directly in numerous other projects such as securing church pews to the floor, repairing ceiling fan in the ministers office, rewiring and updating the kitchen light fixture, shoveling snow last winter, reinstalling the old wayside pulpit sign in front of RE building and installing the "little library". He has also given his time to numerous other small projects around the church. In addition to all of this, he has been a key member of the Green Sanctuary Committee and has participated in their efforts to raise awareness and prompt action in environmental issues. He also serves the community through his membership in Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action and has frequently shared important environmental information through the media in that capacity. Vic has worked all over the country in his employment with the federal government and we are very fortunate that his role as manager of the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge has brought him to our area. Many members of our congregation have championed environmental causes but few have made it their life's work as Vic has done.

Sent by Ron Rees



An Indoor Picnic to Escape the Heat



Rev. Hilary Krivchenia, guest speaker, July 13
Preaching on *Body and Soul, Breath and Spirit*

Body and Soul, Breath and Spirit Reflections for a Time of Turmoil

Offered at The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta
On July 13, 2025

By The Reverend Hilary Landau Krivchenia

Welcome to this Sunday and to some reflections in a time of turmoil. Ohh, there are days when I look out the window and see the lovely trees, the life nurturing skies, my thriving vegetable garden, and I think whoa—this turmoil is almost unreal, so far from my little yard—maybe it's just my frenetic brain looking for trouble, muddying clear water. But then I open my

computer, talk with a friend, or call myself out of my narrow view, open my heart and, quick as a wink, the world looks back at me with eyes full of pain and I know that the ache in my chest, belly, and head is a response to real turmoil and pain in the world. [Click Here to Continue.](#)

Indivisible MOV Packed the Social Hall

Indivisible MOV packed the Social Hall on July 2. *Indivisible* is a progressive movement initiated in 2016 as a reaction to the election of Donald Trump. FUUSM members Lori and Tom Flis are among the organizers.



Board Briefs

July 7, 2025, Meeting

by Betsy Liller

Board Members present: Darryl Ting, Ron Rees (acting president), Robin Bozian, Shari Ballantyne, Lloyd Elliot, Betsy Liller, ab. Vic Elam
Motion by Robin to accept the Treasurer's Report as written (sent by email).
Motion by Robin to accept the minutes of the June 2, 2025 meeting as written.

Board continues to work toward getting our part-time minister posting onto the UUA website and developing our interview process.

Pioneer Pipe will update sewer line beginning in August.

Officers were elected and approved as below:

Vic Elam President

Darryl Ting Vice President

Don Poole Treasurer

Betsy Liller Secretary

Committee Liaisons were assigned as follows:

- a. BRIDGES-Robin
- b. Buildings and Grounds-Ron
- c. Caring Circle-Ron
- d. Committee on Ministries-Lloyd
- e. Finance-Shari
- f. Green Sanctuary-Vic
- g. Membership-Darryl

- h. Nominating-Shari
- j. Personnel-Robin
- k. Worship and Music-Betsy

Motion passed to increase all salaries by 4% across the board. This does not include payment for extra services.

Service Recognition Award: Vic Elam

Next regular board meeting is August 4, 2025.

FUUSM Yard Sale will be on August 2

The FUUSM Yard Sale is coming up August 2nd from 9-3, and this year includes a Bake Sale! We need your help with donations of your unwanted clutter and baked goods, and we also need volunteers to get this going. **Donations will be accepted July 30th and 31st, and on set up day, August 1st.** Please pre-price your donations! We will not be accepting clothes, shoes, or books. Any questions? Please email hippychicky15@yahoo.com or ask Squish.

Sent by Stephanie "Squish" Rector

What! It's already time to think about the winter holiday season?

It may seem way too soon to be preparing for FUUSM's annual Holiday Card Project, but John Maddox, the originator of the project, takes advantage of early-bird opportunities to purchase most of the cards we deliver to area nursing care facilities, and generously donates them for the project. Over many years, John has been the solo card purchaser. This year, in addition to adding greetings to the cards, **let's help cover the cost of the 800-plus cards required.** Starting in early August, the Membership Committee will set out a box in the Social Hall to collect your donations for the project. We are grateful for your support!

Adelilne Bailey, for the Membership Committee



What makes for charisma? A religion historian tries to understand the mysterious force.

In her recent book, 'Spellbound,' Molly Worthen posits that charismatic people tell a compelling story about human identity and purpose that others gravitate to because it helps explain their own role in the grand scheme of life. [Continue here.](#)