

The Confluence

News of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta, OH
A Voice of Liberal Religion in the Mid-Ohio Valley
Open Minds, Helping Hands, and Loving Hearts
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 on Third Street. Email Dawn at fuusm@suddenlinkmail.com or fuusm.office@gmail.com, or call (740) 373-1238.

May 2023

Sunday Services

Services are held each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. in person in the Sanctuary of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta, 232 Third St., Marietta, OH 45750. The services are also available on Facebook (search for FUUSM) and on [Zoom](#).

Sunday, May 8 *The Art of Article II*

Rev. Hawbaker Bring a Friend Sunday Worship Associate, Margaret Meyer. When we welcome people to FUUSM, it is the human contact that is most important, but some people want to review the literature and learn more. Some people have already done some homework by visiting the website or our Facebook page to find out about us and Unitarian Universalism. Some encounter us at special events, rallies, vigils, and festivals. We connect with others around community projects to help feed the hungry, work for environmental justice and human rights, and show up for peace.

Sunday, May 14 Family Day

(no disrespect toward mothers intended, as we continue toward more inclusive understandings and focus on the changing roles of child nurturers.) Family by Choice Worship Leader, Suzyn Mills There are lots of ways to be a family, and no single path, but hearing from others and knowing you are not alone in the challenges can help. It is for all of us to provide the village it takes to raise healthy children through supportive services and educational opportunities.

Sunday, May 21. *Trees of Life*

Rev. K. Hawbaker The Choir sings. The images of a Tree of Life are found in numerous cultures and religious traditions. The stories are enhanced by our scientific understandings intermingled with the wisdom of plants. Let us embrace the coming New Green Revolution.

Sunday, May 28 *Honoring Life & Legacy*

Rev. KEH Memorial Day Weekend, Plant Sale Sunday. The Choir Sings. Plant a tree activity. Plants and flowers express sentiments of joy and remembrance, acknowledging the limits of words, and their necessity.

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, May 2

- 3:30-6:30 pm Girl Scouts in the Social Hall

Wednesday, May 3

- 12–1 p.m., Meditation via [Zoom](#).
- 5–7 p.m., Worship and Music Committee, RE Building Parlor & Zoom

Friday, May 5

- 6-8 pm aMAYzing Month of Art Soiree FUUSM Social Hall

Saturday, May 6

- 12-4 pm aMAYzing Month of Art Youth Program
FUUSM Social Hall
- 3 pm A zoom gathering featuring Michelle Nijhuas,
author of *Beloved Beasts*. [Register here](#).

Sunday, May 7

- 9:30-10:30 am Choir Practice in the Sanctuary
- 9:30-11 am Today's Issues Discussion in the RE
Building parlor and on [Zoom](#).
- 11-12pm **Sunday Service in the Sanctuary.**
- 12-3:30 pm aMAYzing Month of Art Open House in the Sanctuary & Social Hall
- 12:30- 1:30pm Mistakes & Miracles Study Group (Focus on Power) RE Parlor

Monday, May 8

- 2-3pm Caring Committee on Zoom using Sunday Service link
- 6-8:30 Board of Trustees in the RE Building Parlor



Tuesday, May 9

- Noon, UU Plus Women's Book Group, Parkersburg Country Club
- 3:30–6:30 Girl Scouts meet in the social hall.

Wednesday, May 10

- 12–1 p.m, Meditation via [Zoom](#).
- 6–8:30pm. Women's Group in the Social Hall

Saturday, May 13

- 7-7:30 am Birding and Breakfast, Oak Grove Cemetery, Dawn's house at 9. Requires pre-registration.
- 3-5pm African Drumming Class, Social Hall or Courtyard

Sunday, May 14

- 9:30 a.m. Today's Issues discussion in the RE Building parlor and on [Zoom](#).
- 9:30 a.m. Choir practice in the Sanctuary.
- 11:00 a.m. **Sunday Service in the Sanctuary.**
- 11:00 am MOV Friends Meeting in the RE Building Parlor
- 1:00 pm Reproductive Rights Rally at the gazebo in Muskingum Park, Marietta.

Monday, May 15

- 6:30 p.m. Choir practice in the sanctuary

Tuesday, May 16

- 3:30-6:30 pm Girl Scouts in the Social Hall

Wednesday, May 17

- 12–1 p.m, Meditation via [Zoom](#).
- 6:00 p.m. Men's Group, FUUSM Social Hall hosted by Kim McMichael

Friday, May 19

- Membership Committee, RE Building Parlor

Saturday, May 20

- 10-11:00 a.m. TaiChi Reunion in the Social Hall

Sunday, May 21

- 9:30 a.m. Today's Issues discussion in the RE Building parlor and on [Zoom](#).
- 9:30 a.m. Choir practice in the Sanctuary.
- 11:00 a.m. **Sunday Service in the Sanctuary.**
- 12:30-1:30 pm. Green Sanctuary Meeting in the RE Building Parlor and on Zoom

Monday, May 22

- 7 pm Finance Committee on Zoom
- 8-9 pm UU Hymn Sing-Along in the Sanctuary

Tuesday, May 23

- 3:30-6:30 Girl Scouts in the Social Hall

Wednesday, May 24

- **Meditation** via [Zoom](#).

Friday, May 26

- All Day Plant Sale in the Courtyard
- 11:30-12:30 Chalice Lighters Committee in the RE Building Parlor

Saturday, May 27

- All Day Plant Sale in the Courtyard
- 1 - 4:00 p.m. Food Forest Garden Tea Party Be one of the first visitors to the newly planted (and still being developed by Annie Warmke) urban food forest garden. Enjoy a proper cup of tea and a tour of the newly planted garden at 622 Eighth Street in historic Marietta. Any plant sales will be donated to FUUSM's plant sale totals. RSVP required (740) 252-6295

Sunday, May 28

- 9:30 a.m. Today's Issues discussion in the RE Building parlor and on [Zoom](#).
- 9:30 a.m. Choir practice in the Sanctuary.
- 11:00 a.m. **Sunday Service, Sanctuary.**
- 11:00 a.m. MOV-Marietta Quaker Meeting in the RE Building Parlor

Monday, May 29

- FUUSM Office Closed for Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 30

- 3:30-6:30 Girl Scouts in the Social Hall

Wednesday, May 31

- Meditation via [Zoom](#).

Looking Ahead to early June Special Events

Saturday, June 3 OutMOV Pride in the Park 2023

12 Noon LGBTQIA+ Celebration

Sunday, June 4 Annual FUUSM Flower Communion (100 year anniversary)

Happy Birthday

Jill Inabnet (5/2) Caitlin Harrison (5/2) Roger Kalter (5/12) Dawn Hewitt (5/15)
Betsy Kalter (5/17) [Check our birthday file here and let us know if any are missing, especially including children](#)

aMAYzing Works of Art Event May 5,6,7

More than 35 artists are expected to exhibit aMAYzing ART! Opening 6 pm First Friday May 5th.

Live music, meet the artists, tours of the 166 year old historic Marietta church built by Nahum Ward.

The exhibits range from 10 year old Rileigh Trembly's multimedia creations to 91 year young Perl Totman's hand carved wooden animals and photographs of his East Muskingum Park ash tree masterpieces.

Musicians Leeann Gallucci, Betsy Hune Kalter and George Hausser will be among those performing between 6-8 pm in the church at 232 Third St.

Next door, Elin Jones's 12-foot-tall, yellow eyed dragon is expected to swoop in with its 20 foot wingspan.

The First Unitarian Universalist Society began the aMAYzing Month for ART in 1988.

Columbus artist Laurel Hodben featured textile and social justice banner art during the Homecoming 2022. Hodben again is sharing her banner Art and has donated a cascade of paints for the Blooming Young Artists's program from 12-4 pm Saturday, May 6.

Youth 5-17 are invited to participate in a wide variety of creative arts under the guidance of art teachers, artists and adult volunteers.

An environmentally friendly cardboard non-steam train will be designed and painted by some of the budding artists. They and others then will be able to play with it, enjoying their creation through the month of May.

On Sunday, May 7, there will be a Special Coffee offered in the social hall and or courtyard in honor of the late Cody J. Henderhan who was a Columbus barista, animal and plant lover and gardener for the Washington County Boys and Girls Club. Church tours again will be offered.

All events are free with donations accepted to help cover expenses.

The art exhibits will be open Sundays through May and by special arrangements for groups as volunteers are available. The aMAYzing ART! will be open Saturday May 27 during the Annual Plant Sale in the courtyard. The show closes May 31.

For information or to participate, volunteer or donate for expenses, contact Roger G. Kalter, Art! coordinator, at 740-525-1833 or Dawn Hewitt, office assistant, at 740-373-1238.



Story by Roger Kalter

Singing Hymns with Randal Kidder on Piano Next Singalong on May 22



On the evening of April 24, about a dozen FUUSM choir members, plus our tech gurus Mike Bailey and Ralph Olander, and most importantly, pianist Randall Kidder, met in the sanctuary to sing hymns from both of our UU hymnals. We streamed via Zoom, so other UUs elsewhere could sing along with us--although they were muted. We weren't, so they felt like they were singing with a congregation, accompanied by RANDALL! What a treat for them, and what a joy it was for us to sing--not practice--together! During the course of an hour, we sang roughly 15 hymns; about half were familiar, and half were new to us. Some of the new-to-us hymns had lovely melodies, and/or meaningful lyrics. We hope we will sing them someday in a Sunday service so that they become familiar to us.

The event was originally organized by the Pittsburgh cluster of UUA as an online adult RE offering. It was intended especially for UUs whose congregations are too small to have a choir or an accompanist. (How blessed we at FUUSM are to have both!) The events are held twice-monthly via Zoom, and during the event, each participant would go to web various links of a recording of the music of the hymn, and sing along with it. Each participant was singing alone, as though they were a soloist. (I do understand that singing hymns alone and to recorded music is better than not singing hymns at all.) When the recording finished, they'd get back together, and then either discuss that hymn, or just move on to another.

It was kind of lame--a statement I can make from my privileged position of getting to sing with our congregation, accompanied by Randall, nearly every week! So I suggested to the organizer that we try this experiment: Randall playing live and FUUSM members singing live, and streaming. Other participants would sing along, but muted (because of Zoom's short delay in broadcasting. By all accounts, the experiment was a raging success!

We'll be doing this again on Monday, May 22, from 8-9 p.m., and everyone is welcome to join us! This is not a choir event, but a singing event for all FUUSM members and friends! If you enjoy singing hymns with others, please join us for an evening of joyful participatory music.

Story by Dawn Hewitt. Photo by Ralph Olander

FUUSM Valley Gem Sternwheeler - Private Chartered Cruise

Sunday June 11. 5:00 - 7:00 P.M. (Sign up by May 21)



If you didn't sign up for this private FUUSM cruise at the Service Auction, be sure to sign up by the May 21 deadline. FUUSM members, family and friends are welcome. The cost is \$30 and includes light refreshment. There will be a cash bar. Make Checks Payable to FUUSM, Notation on Check: Valley Gem Cruise. Mail or Drop Off Payment To: FUUSM 232 Third Street, Marietta, OH 45750

Congregational Meeting Gets Things Done

FUUSM Congregation Meeting was held Sunday, April 23, 2023 in the Sanctuary and on Zoom, beginning at 11:37 am.

The budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year was approved. The Bylaws revisions were approved. Robin Bozian and Ron Rees were elected to the Board of Trustees. Sue Montera and Lloyd Elliot were elected to the Board of Trust Governors. Gary Hamilton was elected to the Committee on Ministries. Rev. Kat will be taking a Sabbatical beginning January 2024. Her "Letter of Call" states that the Board should be given a one-year notice. Because the Sabbatical will begin sooner than one year, the Congregation must vote to approve. The Congregation voted to approve.

Oral Reports were presented by 11 committees. George (Finance Committee) reported that Ted Goertzel will be stepping down as Treasurer. George shared that he had contacted Don Poole, a friend of FUUSM, who is qualified and interested in this position. The Finance Committee will make its recommendation to the Board for approval.

Rev. Kat presented information about the General Assembly to be held in Pittsburgh, June 21 - 25. The agenda will include a sensitive issue regarding the possible replacement of the 7 UU Principles with a simplified, more visual model. We are entitled to 3 delegates in addition to Kat. Karen Binkley and Rebecca Phillips were elected as delegates. FUUSM does not mandate how our delegates vote.

The GRAND FUUSM SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARD was presented to Dawn Hewitt, "The Church Lady."

Items for the good of Society: 1.) Darryl Ting made a motion to hold special congregational-style meetings specifically for congregation feedback on the minister's performance and specifically excluding the minister's attendance. After much discussion, a vote was taken. The motion passed. The Board will assume responsibility for checking the legality of such meetings and planning when and how the meetings will be conducted. 2.) Darryl Ting moved that Concretia be removed from the premises. After learning there are plans for designs of the gardens around the patio which may include moving Concretia, Darryl withdrew his motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:34pm.

Sent by Nancy Luthy

Special Coffee Sundays and the Urban Food Forest Garden



Secret Food Forest Planting Day with Annie Warmke, Dalia Fabb-Soto and Deb Wagoner Sent by Annie Warmke



Painting signs for aMAYzing Month of Art with Anna Haught and Dalia Fabb-Soto. Sent by Annie Warmke

If you are a coffee lover and would be interested in leading the special coffee Sundays planned for 2023 (there are four) let the Chalice Lighter Committee know. The special coffees include spicing things up a bit in some way (cookies and coffee, Cody's "Bloody Mary" coffee - whipped cream and cinnamon etc.). Supplies are provided but if you want to add more zest or have other fun ideas let us know so we can determine how best to underwrite the goodies.

The next meeting of the Chalice Lighters Committee will be May 26 in the RE Building Parlor, 11:30 to 12:30

Be one of the first visitors to the newly planted (and still being developed by Annie Warmke) urban food forest garden. Enjoy a proper cup of tea and a tour of the newly planted garden at 622 Eighth Street in historic Marietta. Any plant sales will be donated to FUUSM's plant sale totals. May 27, 1- 4pm RSVP required (740) 252-6295.

Sent by Annie Warmke

Board Briefs

The Board of Trustees met April 10th in the Parlor.

The proposed budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, with corrections, was approved. A copy of this Budget was sent to the Membership. A vote to accept this budget will be made at the Congregational Meeting, April 23, 2023.

Rev. Kat requested a Sabbatical beginning Jan. 2024. The Board approved Kat's Sabbatical Plan; however, the Congregation must vote to accept the January date, as it is earlier than stipulated by her "Letter of Call " requiring the Board's approval of the plan one year in advance. A vote will be taken at the Congregational Meeting.

The Board approved and signed the final draft of the updated "Letter of Call."

The Evaluation Team (Minister performance) will be Nancy Luthy (Board), Katy McDaniel (Committee on Ministries) and Chris Jacobs (Member at Large).

The Board voted that **COVID sign-in sheets are NO LONGER required.**

Cindy Brown will receive this month's Service Recognition Award for her amazing work on the Auction catalog and the silent auction.

Dawn Hewitt will receive the GRAND Service Recognition Award for outstanding work as "The Church Lady".
Story by Nancy Luthy

Cindy Brown Receives Service Recognition Award

Lucinda Brown has been a "Friend of FUUSM" since moving back to Marietta in 2010. She attended FUUSM when she was a teenager (13 to 17ish). At that time she babysat in the nursery and was a member of the youth group.

She was a cook for the Community Supper since its inception. She often attends the Women's group and has worked on the plant sale for four years. She also enjoys cooking meals for the homeless warming center.

Lucinda has been my "rock" when it comes to the Annual Service Auction for the last two years. It would not have been such a success without her hard work and dedication.

Lucinda sits on boards and committees all around our community. We are so lucky to have her!

We are very proud to call Lucinda a "Friend of FUUSM".

Story by Christina Thrasher Photo from Facebook.



Panoramic photo of the Men's Group sitting in a circle in the Social Hall

Kat's Korner

Asking Builds Community

Sometimes we need to ask for help. It can be hard to do, so as with most growing edges, it develops with practice, practice, practice.

If you have enjoyed the recent riddles in the Weekly Update to FUUSM-I email list, you know there is sometimes more than one right answer. A good strong question can help facilitate engagement and exchange.

Karen and I attended a recent webinar sponsored by UUA Side with Love, "Evaluation as an Act of Love" where a phrase rang out-

"Asking is how we build power" in a network of relationships.

This comes from movements based on community organizing principles and practices. As a voluntary organization, FUUSM relies on support.

We ASK people to volunteer, take a turn with coffee hour, raise money, and join in with actions, like sign a petition, subscribe to a newsletter, or share a post on facebook, all actions along a spectrum. From simple steps, to lending a hand in service, and regular tasks like hospitality, greeting or set-up for an event.

We ask you to share your stories and wisdom from your unique experience, enriching our diversity in unity. We ask you to listen to the call of what you name as holy, and live your values in community.

I ask you to find a way to do your part, with your gifts, to make a difference in our congregation and the wider world. We invite you to share your journey in community, as we learn and grow and work together.

Unitarian Universalists love to seek the truth through asking questions, and the answers abound. We have found that the free and responsible search for meaning is a central tenet of religious community. We can affirm that the best answers are not just a matter of personal preference, but a collective agreement that directs our attention and action.

Try making space to listen, after you ask. Deeply listening is an art that can be practiced. We can call them conversations, or Listening Circles or FUUSM Forums, but we know that direct conversation also gives time for questions and responses and solutions that address differing needs.

Creating safe space in which everyone can be heard is valuable.

Following procedures and By-Laws is helpful, and is also why they need to be reviewed and updated from time to time.

We are NOT striving for perfection, especially if it becomes the enemy of the good. There is a hardness and clenching of control that interferes with flexibility and openness to other ideas. As a religious tradition we refer to promises and covenants as the language of relationship that affirms our accountability and mutuality, grounded in trust and respect. In service and ministry, Rev. Kathryn E. Hawbaker

References

Matthew 7:7 [New International Version](#)

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

”The Invitation” by Oriah Mountain Dreamer

<https://familyfriendpoems.com/poem/58218>(an excerpt - check out the full prose or book)

... It doesn't interest me where or what or with whom you have studied.

I want to know what sustains you from the inside when all else falls away.



Mother of Concretia has birthed Trashosaurus (homosanguisuga). Scrounged pieces for aMAYzing ART! Sent by Roger K.



Self-portrait by Ron Tepley, recently deceased FUUSM member. On display in the social hall. Photo by Roger Kalter



Grand Award Winner Dawn Hewitt at the Service Auction



Service Award winner Cindy Brown at work at the Service Auction