

The Confluence

News of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta, Ohio
May 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](#)



The congregation singing "I know this rose will open," by Mary E. Grigolia. [Video](#)

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 May: Awakening Curiosity - Pluralism

May 3 A Time for Reimagining

We welcome Pete Mather's return to our Sanctuary. In this service he will explore the perspective that the Unitarian Universalist tradition is one of reimagining. He will focus on the long UU history of reimagining our faith in the light of current events and will propose imaginings required of us in today's period of global upheaval. Pete is a professor in the Counseling and Higher Education Department at Ohio University and also a student of ministry.



Guest Speaker: Pete Mather, Ph.D.

Worship Associate: Suzyn Mills

May 10

Life's Longing for Itself



Everyone has one – a mother or mother figure, a parent or caregiver. And every one of them has a story. Actually a series of stories – windows on the calling, experience, and struggle, the aspiration and the memory of nurturing and raising a child. And of having been nurtured in turn by a special someone – a relationship that intimately and irrevocably shapes who we are and how we'll be. Let's celebrate Mother's Day together.

Worship Leader: Rev. Evan Young

Worship Associate: Nancy Luthy

May 17

ANNUAL MEETING

Worship: The Condensed Version

Today is Annual Meeting day. But it's also Sunday. And it wouldn't be right to let Sunday go by without spending some time in worship together. The question is: How short can our service be and still be worship? What do we absolutely and minimally have to include? Join us and find out – and then stick around for a look under the hood at the inner workings of this vibrant and loving community we are constantly building!

Worship Leader: Rev. Evan Young

Worship Associate: Betsy Liller

May 24

Remember, Regret, Resolve

Memorial Day is . . . complicated. So many different thoughts, and feelings, and memories swirl around this holiday, and around the idea of celebrating it (if indeed that's the right word). And in this part of Ohio, military service can be bound up with questions of economic justice as well as patriotism. Rev. Young reflects on what might be true, honest, faithful, and respectful recognitions of this important day.

Worship Leader: Rev. Evan Young
Associate: Adeline Bailey

Worship



Calendar of Events

Dawn out of office May 1! Lori Fahn will staff the office.

Sunday, May 3

- 9:30 a.m., **Choir practice**, sanctuary
- 11 a.m., **Sunday service**, sanctuary, Zoom and Facebook. Pete Mather, guest presenter, will provide the reflection.
- **Coffee hour!** Social hall. Ends at 1 p.m.

Monday, May 4

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

Tuesday, May 5

- 3:30–6:30, Girl Scouts in social hall

Wednesday, May 6

- 10:15 a.m., **Worship & Music Committee** meeting, RE parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Indivisible Move at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 320 Second St., Marietta



Thursday, May 7

- 9 a.m. –3 p.m., **FUUSM Plant Sale DROPOFF**

Friday, May 8: ALL FUUSM COMMITTEE Reports must be submitted to Dawn (fuusm.office@gmail.com) by 10 a.m.

- 9 a.m.–5 p.m. **FUUSM Plant Sale** setup
- 7 p.m., **Climate Future Film Festival**, presented by the Green Sanctuary Committee and Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action.

Saturday, May 9

- 10 a.m. –2 p.m., Annual **FUUSM Plant and Bake Sale!**

Sunday, May 10

- 9:30, **Choir Practice**, social hall
- 11 a.m., MOV Quaker meeting, RE parlor
- 11 a.m., **Sunday service**, sanctuary: Rev. Evan Young will present the reflection for this Mothers Day/Parents Day/ Nurturers Day service.
- 3 p.m. **Climate Future Film Festival**, presented by the Green Sanctuary Committee and Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action.

[Click here to see the full month's calendar, regularly updated.](#)

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*

Service Recognition Award Jim Grechni and Debra Miller

The FUUSM Board of Trustees presents the Service Recognition Award to Jim Grechni and Debra Miller. Jim and Debra have been active, dedicated FUUSM members for 40 years.



Protecting the environment has been a particular passion for them. They have been sterling examples of living with a small carbon footprint and minimal strain on the environment. They were founding members of the Green Sanctuary Committee in 2014. And, since 2022, co-chairs with Dawn Hewitt, providing Green Sanctuary leadership when Dawn was not available.

They have been active contributors in other areas as well ... remember Debra's flashy accessories (hats and leis) when she was signing you up for various FUUSM activities, or more recently, Jim (with Paul Lewis) eliminating the sticking problem with the church's big front doors. Just a couple of examples of Jim and Debra's active dedication to our FUUSM community over the years.

As they approach the time of their move to Hawaii, we honor Jim and Debra for being part of our FUUSM Family for 40 years.

Mahalo and Aloha nui loa. *Sent by Darryl Ting*

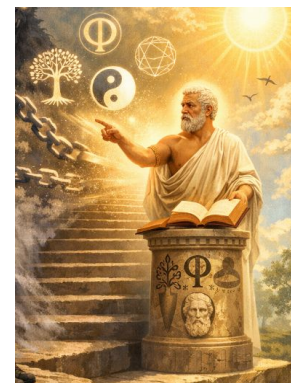
"No Fear"

by Reverend Evan Young

In this sermon, preached on April 19, Rev. Evan considers some theological approaches to and understandings of fear. What are its sources? What are our possible response options?

I read the news today. Oh boy.

According to what I hear and see in the news, this world is a terrifying place. Full of terrifying people and projects and possibilities. We're told that we—not just me or you as individuals, but all of us together—are teetering on the brink of financial ruin. Told we're surrounded by lawless neighbors, whose deep-seated fears and grudges and biases have been inflamed by the unscrupulous until they're threatening us with vigilante-style purges and civil war. Told our government, drunk on its own capacity to commit mayhem, is spinning out of control at home and abroad. Told that whole regions of the world, indeed the whole world, is careening toward warfare local or global, with conventional or nuclear weapons. Told we've so catastrophically altered the climate in our greed that it will soon and inevitably kill us and everything else here. That is, if the killer asteroids from space don't do it first. (That last one sounds like a joke, but I kid you not, I hear one of these stories on the radio about once a month on average.) Subjected to this insistent and endless drumbeat, any sane person ought to be afraid. Very afraid.



[Click here to continue reading ...](#)

We're hosting Free Screenings of Chapter 2 of the Climate Future Film Festival on May 8 and repeat screening May 10

The FUUSM Green Sanctuary committee has teamed up with our friends at Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action to host free admission screenings of the 2026 Merlyn Climate Grants Climate Future Film Festival on Friday, May 8, at 7:00pm, and a repeat screening on Sunday, May 10, at 2:00pm. Both Festival screenings will be held in person in the Social Hall at FUUSM.

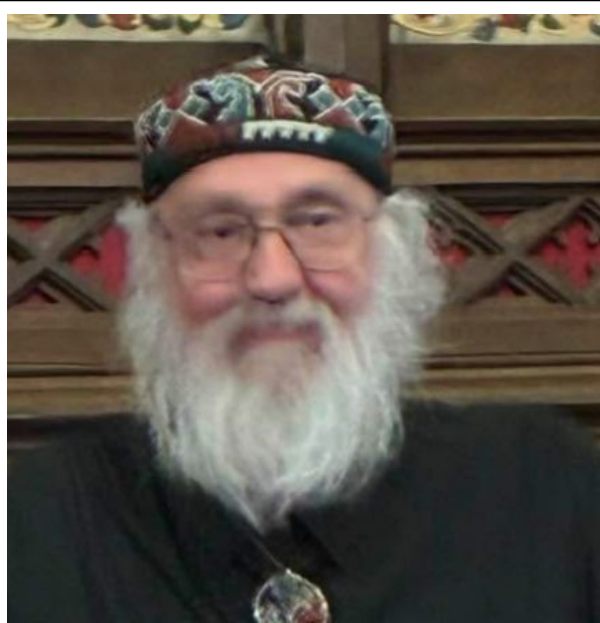
We're excited to host 'Chapter 2' of this touring festival of award-winning short films that explore the 'interior,' more artistic and more personal response to our many possible climate futures.

The 2025 Festival was thought-provoking as well as entertaining, Chapter 2 offers 12 short films – drama, satire, comedy, films of hope and films of sadness, documentary and animation - created by young filmmakers from around the world.

Bill McKibben, one of America's leading voices and authors on climate, is one of the Festival's Honorary Judges. This year, he is joined by Edward Norton, sustainability advocate and three-time Academy Award nominee.

The Festival screenings are open to the public and free of charge, so we hope you will join us and invite your friends! [View a Poster About This Event](#)

Adeline Bailey, for the Green Sanctuary Committee



Pianist Randal Kidder at the conclusion of his performance of Music of the Sayyids and the Dervis by Armenian philosopher, composer and mystic [George Ivanovitch Gurdjieff](#) (1877-1949)



Easter Egg Hunt Photos by Stephanie Thomas.



Earth Day Photos by Ralph Olander
[Click here for more of Ralph's photos.](#)

Singing Resistance to Meet on May 15

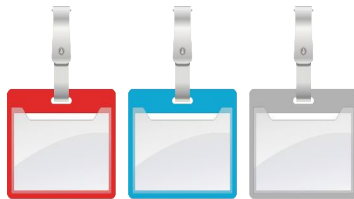
The Singing Resistance group will meet on Friday, May 15 in the Social Hall. Singing Resistance is a Minneapolis-born, nationwide grassroots movement that uses group singing as nonviolent action against ICE operations and authoritarianism. [Click here](#) for a video of the group in Minneapolis. No talent or even history of singing in the shower is needed. 😊 Just a desire to join in a positive act of resistance.





Our Friends the Quakers interfaith April 26 meeting for peace, justice, dignity and hope

HELLO, ALL YOU WONDERFUL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS!



Please continue to make FUUSM a welcoming place for visitors, newcomers, and seekers of all ages!

An easy way you can help newcomers get acquainted with us is to **WEAR YOUR NAMETAG!**

If yours has disappeared, please tell anyone on the Membership committee that you need a new one – or you can alert our Church Lady Dawn Hewitt, and she will create a new one for you.

We also welcome your help with greeting or hosting, or just taking a moment to introduce yourself to anyone you don't know and helping them feel comfortable in our beautiful, historic building. (Hint: the bathrooms are downstairs!)

Thanks!

Your Membership Committee: Sally Allen, Adeline and Mike Bailey, Elaine Barr (chair), and Cynthia and Darryl Ting.

Summer Institute at Oberlin: July 5-11

Get ready for an unforgettable week of community, music and learning! Summer Institute 2026 is returning to Oberlin College, OH, July 5-11. The theme speaker is Rev. Susan Ritchie and the theme is Co-Creating Hope: The Art and Beauty of Resilience. Morning seminars are classes designed for adults to learn a new skill, get creative, move and meditate or contemplate a deep topic in the company of others who share a similar interest. Morning seminars run Monday – Friday after the theme talk and you attend the same seminar the entire week as each day builds upon the day prior. The full list for 2026 is now available for you to review before registration which is now open on the [CERSI website](#). Which ones most interest you? Need a scholarship? That [application is also open](#) but you must register for SI first



Text of a presentation shared by J.D. Stillwater at our April 26 Worship Service

Whenever it comes, I often experience spring as a big sigh of relief. Some of the layers of heavy clothing come off and I can move more freely; snow and ice give way to spiky green rockets shooting out of the soil, which begins a countdown to riotous color, followed by hyacinth ecstasy drifting on the wind like free hallucinogens, but better.

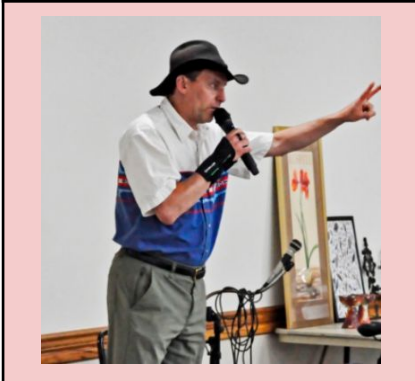
Little peeps begin to fill the social—not those peeps!—peeps begin to fill the socialmedia feeds of those lucky enough to have chickens.

For much of my life, that was me. I hatched my first chickens at age 8, and every year after that, until college. My little brother hatched ducks and my sister had geese.

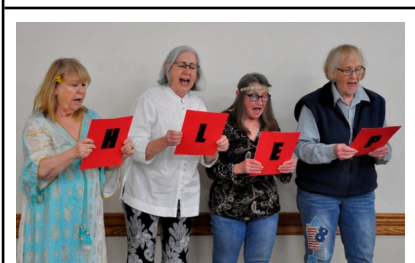
[Continue reading](#)

Service Auction Photographs

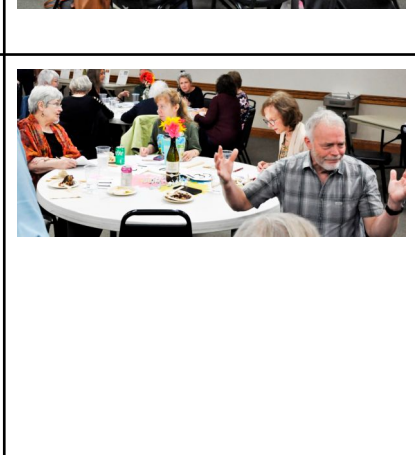
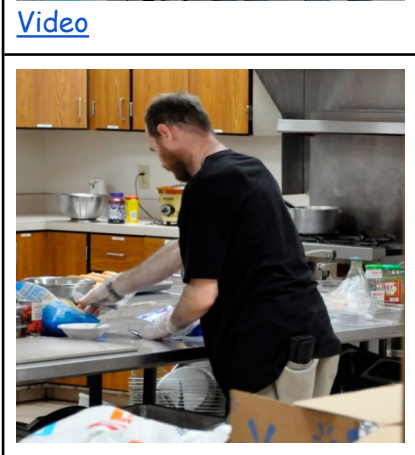
[Click here for more of Ralph Olander's photos](#)



[Photos by Ralph Olander](#)



[Video](#)





Minutes of the Board of Trustees

April 6, 2026 In the Parlor

Present: Vic Elam, Ron Rees , Darryl Ting, Robin Bozian, Lloyd Elliot, Betsy Liller, Evan Young (minister) Vic called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM Chalice Lighting: Lloyd Next month: Robin Bozian March minutes stand as published. Treasurer's report was received, reviewed and accepted. Darryl will reach out to Don to request that he parse out the minister's salary and expenses from the rest of the employees. Minister's report reviewed and accepted.

Old Business: 1. Further discussion on the Chalice Lighter grant. We will look into possible uses of the grant. Board was in consensus that we need to do the work of healing the congregation, with Evan taking the lead before we can truly focus on our growth objectives. 2. Ron Rees is leaving the board when his term expires at the end of June. George and Shari are aware of the upcoming vacancy and are actively recruiting a replacement.

New Business: 1. Evan has begun the process of working to heal the congregation. With input from other colleagues, he will develop an assessment of the healing of the congregation and steps to move forward. Beginning this month, he is planning to meet individually with multiple members of the board and congregation as part of this assessment. 2. The board decided that the proposed Disruptive Behavior Policy will be shared with the congregation as part of our discussions of healing our congregation. Evan will begin setting the groundwork for these conversations through some of his upcoming sermons. 3. Darryl is in the process of completing an online Right Relations training with the UUA which he is finding helpful. Once he completes the training, we will look to establish a small (2-3 person) Right Relations committee with all members having completed the training. 4. Betsy Cook attended the meeting briefly to request that FUUSM consider allowing "We the People Ohio" to hang their banner in front of our

church on April 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. They are hoping to get permission to hang it at the courthouse, but we would provide an alternate location if needed. Robin made a motion that we allow the banner to be hung, seconded by Ron, passed unanimously. 5. The annual meeting is coming up on May 17, 2026 and an agenda needs to be developed. Vic will chair the meeting and will work on developing an agenda with Betsy. The agenda must include any motions that we plan to vote on as a congregation. 6. The Service Recognition Award is going to Debra Miller and Jim Grecni in honor of all their contributions to FUUSM over the years. Darryl will do the write-up and Betsy will contact Shari to send a card. Adjournment at 8:11 p.m. Next regular board meeting is May 4, 2026. *Respectfully submitted, Betsy Liller, Secretary*