The Confluence

News of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta, Ohio
November 2026
Click Here for Office Hours, Phone Numbers, and Addresses
Click Here for Information on Becoming a Member

Worship Services

11 am Sunday in the sanctuary at Third and Putnam streets, Marietta, Ohio.
Also streamed live on the FUUSM Facebook page & via Zoom link.

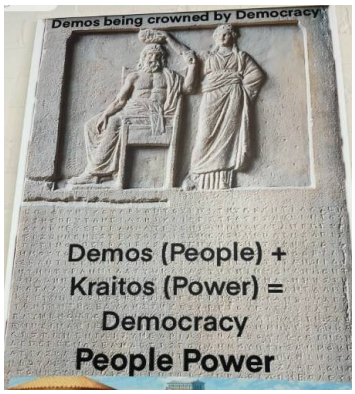
THEME FOR THE MONTH: **HEALING (Purposes, Interdependence, Justice)**

November 1 "Our Friends the Dead" Rev. Evan Young



Halloween, All Saints' Day, All Souls' Day, Day of the Dead – this is the season for remembering those who have gone on. For some, that remembering brings sadness; for some, fear. Although some prefer not to think about the departed, others welcome the dead back into this world like old friends, and for them this season feels more like an annual visit. For this Sunday's service, please bring pictures, mementos, perhaps a favorite snack that brings someone you've lost close again, and let us celebrate our memories together.
Worship Associate: Betsy Liller

***November 8 "History and Healing, Aspiration and/or Resistance"** Rev. Evan Young



Whatever the outcomes of this past week's elections, their campaigns and issues have preoccupied us for a long time. We've been anxious, angry, fearful, and hopeful. Today, we'll share songs and hymns that make clear the connections between our political and our spiritual lives. And with that sharing, we will celebrate the hope and love that lifts us up in both good times and bad.
Worship Associate: Betsy Liller
*Please plan to attend the Listening Session after the worship service to discuss the Board Report on the Circumstances Leading to Rev. Hawbaker's Voluntary Resignation.
As needed or requested, a second Listening Session may be held on November 15.



November 15 "The Passion of the Earth" Rev. Evan Young
As humans we have great knowledge and great power. Our capacity to change the world is exceeded only, it seems, by our greed and our willful disregard of our dependence on its well-being. "What have we done?" we have to wonder. And "What can we do?"
Worship Associate: Nancy Luthy

November 22 "Living in Gratitude and Wonder"
In this participatory worship service, we will take time for personal reflection about experiences of wonder and gratitude and for sharing in pairs. We will also explore possible ways to respond to those experiences. Please join us in this worship service that expands our spiritual practice options at this time of thanks-giving.
Special Music: The Choir, under the direction of Martha Webster, will sing "Count Your Blessings" (words and music by Andy Beck).
Worship Leaders: Martha McGovern and Adeline Bailey



November 29 "Bringing Joy to Many"
On this first Sunday of Advent, or what we are calling The Season of Light, we will meet for a short service in the Sanctuary and then move to the Social Hall for the Holiday Card Workshop. John Maddox's initial idea has established a FUUSM tradition that has connected us annually with over 800 residents in local nursing homes, bringing light to their lives and brightening their spirits. Come hear some feedback and participate in this activity of LOVE.
Worship and Workshop Leaders: Nancy Luthy and Adeline Bailey

Calendar of Events

Sunday, November 1
- **2 a.m., daylight saving time ends! Set your clock back an hour!!**
- ~~9:30 a.m., **Choir practice,** sanctuary.~~ Canceled this week.
- 11 a.m, **Sunday service**, sanctuary
- **Coffee hour,** social hall

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

Tuesday, November 3
- 2:30–6:30 p.m., Girl Scouts, social hall

Wednesday, November 4
- 10:15 a.m., **Worship & Music Committee meeting,** RE parlor

Saturday, November 7
- 5:30 p.m., service auction event at The Fields (Poor Mac's Diner and Comedy Club)

Sunday, November 8
- 9:30 a.m., **Choir practice,** sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Today's Issues Discussion of the Implications of the Election Results, RE parlor
- 11 a.m, **Sunday service**, sanctuary: History and Healing, with Rev. Evan Young
- 11 a.m., MOV Friends (Quakers) meeting, RE parlor
- Listening Session after the worship service to discuss the Board Report on the Circumstances Leading to Rev. Hawbaker's Voluntary Resignation.

- **Coffee hour,** social hall

Tuesday, November 10

- Noon, **UU+ Women's Book Group,** Parkersburg Country Club
- 2:30–6:30 p.m., Girl Scouts, social hall

Wednesday, November 11

- 6 p.m., **Women's Group potluck,** social hall**: ALL FUUSM members and friends, regardless of gender, are invited to celebrate the 80th birthday of Maggie Meyer!!** Please try to arrive a few minutes early as we plan to have Maggie there right around 6:00 and want the room to be full for the "surprise". The venue will be a potluck with cake provided by Maggie's son, Sam, who will be attending from out of town, so please bring a dish to share.

Click Here for the Rest of the Calendar, Updated

Guest at Your Table



Guest At Your Table is a UUA Service Committee Project with far-reaching success.
This year the program is highlighting:

- A journalist fighting for state accountability and community care in Haiti
- Creating a home for people in migration in Casa Tochan
- Advocating for gender equity and rights for the Roman community in Ukraine

Cash and check donations may be placed in an individual box, the designated box in Fellowship Hall or the Offertory plate. Please make checks payable to UUSC-GAYT
If placing your cash donation the the offertory plate, please place it in an envelope marked UUSC-GAYT

This project ends Nov. 15th. For questions call Nancy Luthy 740-525-6532



Betsy Liller, Linda Lewis, Ellen Bond and Mike Lang lowering the Blessing Box/Free Little Library making it wheelchair accessible.



John Beall Jr. raking, the decluttering team in action and William Stone packing dried paint for disposal



Linda Lewis sorting decades of stuff.

Mike Lang, Tom Flis and John Beall Jr working on the RE building office steps. Next up, hand rails from third street walks to the sidewalk, the RE Building and the sanctuary.



Five truck loads recycled, upcycled, thrift stored, composted, trashed and turned into cat toys





Photos from Dawn Hewitt

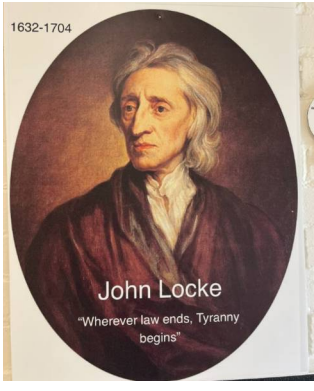
A SHORT HISTORY OF VOTING RIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES

By Jann Adams



With the 2026 Midterm Election on November 3, voters identifying as Independent, Democratic Party, Republican Party, or Libertarian, are all wrestling with uneasiness and uncertainty about the outcome. Voting is the bedrock of American democracy and a Unitarian Universalist principle.

When people usually talk about voting rights, much attention is given to women's suffrage and the black civil rights movement. This writing is about those groups of Americans often overlooked in the citizenship and voting rights story. It is a mere snapshot of information, year by year, law by changing law.



For a variety of complex reasons, the Framers of the Constitution granted states the authority to conduct federal elections, while reserving the right of Congress to intervene, if necessary. It gives states complete power to determine the voting rules, policies and procedures. Generally, states limited this right to property-owning or tax-paying White males (about 6% of the population voted in the first

election). Some states allowed free Black men to vote, and New Jersey included unmarried and widowed women who owned property. Continue reading here

In Service of Season's Greetings



Our all-ages holiday greeting card project is scheduled for November 29th. This project provides an opportunity for everyone, young and old(er) to work together and share in the fun of writing messages of love and holiday cheer on cards that will be distributed to residents in nursing care facilities.

We have almost **800 cards** waiting for us to fill with happy seasonal greetings! As in past years, we will post some suggested greetings that you may add to the cards, but you are of course welcome to write your own unique message. All we need to do at the workshop is add the greeting to each card, sign it, and slip it into the envelope, and fold in **(DO NOT SEAL!)** the envelope. As mentioned above, we are wanting to include all members of our community in this project, including children. We will have some holiday-themed coloring sheets for children to add with the cards, or they can create their own art work or messages.

No stamps required! Serving as the organizing team, the membership committee will combine your cards with others and hand-deliver them to local nursing homes during the second week of December.

If you'd like to participate, but you're not available to gather in person on **November 29th,** you can add some special greetings to extra holiday cards (with envelopes) from supplies that you have at home, and bring them to the FUUSM office on or before **December 4th** to be added to the deliveries.

This community service project has been very well received in past years. ***Let's make it a success in 2026!***

And one more thing: We could use a few more folks to help us prepare the cards for Workshop Day. We will be ink-stamping the card backs with our congregation's name on **Wednesday, November 11th,** starting at 1:30 pm in the parlor of the RE/Office building. Many hands get it done much more quickly!

Let Adeline know if you can help: 740-516-4199 or adesign4199@gmail.com.

— FUUSM Membership Committee/Holiday Card Project Organizing Team



Free and Responsible

by Rev. Evan Young

Everybody wants to be free. Free to live their own lives, free to do what they want to do. Free from burdens imposed on them. Free from servitude or bondage. Free from want. Something about that idea of freedom speaks to something deep inside us—even our wordless dreams are filled with images of rising up, taking flight, leaping walls and striking out for exciting parts unknown.

Freedom is at the heart of the ideals expressed in this nation's founding

documents; it's the animating spirit of our declarations about the self-evident truths of equality and the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Aspirational convictions that always made me proud, made me hopeful that we might someday realize them.

Freedom is also core to our Unitarian Universalist faith, and central to our history. Starting with the insistence by our anti-trinitarian forebears on their
right to remain in the church while disagreeing with a point of doctrine the majority of the church leadership, and the authority of the state, was imposing on them, our freedom to believe as we choose has been an issue
Unitarians have been willing to go to the mat for—even to die for, if Michael Servetus can be taken as any kind of example.
[Continue Reading Here](#).





Progressive Dinner October 3, Service Auction Event. Photos by Suzyn Mills







In Appreciation of Tom Flis and Roger Kalter



I don't think that it is any secret that Roger is passionate about the church building and seeing that it is well cared for. What may be a secret is that quietly slaving away and making things happen is one of Roger's minions, who goes by the name of Tom Flis.

Roger does a great job of identifying repair needs and safety issues and then he goes about finding people to help him realize those repairs or improvements, with dogged determination. Tom has been kind enough to pitch in and help on many occasions, and he has the experience needed to design, and acquire permits. Tom recently got city approval to install hand rails along the walkways coming up from the street to the sidewalk along the front of the church, he worked to install a drain for a humidifier, and Tom has been working to remove and rebuild the stairs along the outside of the RE building that provide access to the office, among other projects.

Roger recently organized a work day event that brought in 13 members and friends to tackle many tasks and was very successful in removing several items from our to-do list, such as lowering the outside Blessings Box.

Both men deserve our praise for all they do in support of our aging structures, which are in constant need of repair.

Vic Elam, President of the Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees Report of Circumstances Leading to Rev. Hawbaker's Voluntary Resignation

First of all, the Board of Trustees recognizes that this document may be long overdue for some. The Board believes that an explanation is warranted.

The Board was initially advised by our UUA representative that following Rev. Hawbaker's resignation, we were prohibited from speaking about the circumstances that led to that action. Only recently were we released from that cloud of secrecy. In order to protect individuals involved, we will not go into detail about any testimonials. Rev. Hawbaker's resignation was voluntary, but the Board feels that the particulars that led her to that decision should be shared. The Board of Trustees accepts responsibility for not establishing policies such as Safer Congregation and Conflict Resolution policies that might have created an environment where the turmoil within the church could have been avoided.

A long history of less than pleasant behavior towards others by Rev. Hawbaker came to a head during the pandemic. Members of the congregation felt the need to have a series of open conversations about the issues. After the congregational meetings showed how toxic this matter had become to a number of individuals, the Board struggled for a while to determine a path forward. After much discussion, the Board

eventually decided to have an investigation into the veracity of some of the accusations made. Neutral yet knowledgeable individuals were asked to conduct the investigation. Their report pointed to a pattern of behavior that was described as anger, frustration, disrespect and, on more than one occasion, rose to the level to be considered bullying.

After the investigative report was released to the Board, we began deliberations on how we should move forward in a constructive way. With our UUA representative providing guidance and acting as our intermediary, the Board approached Rev. Hawbaker about ways to address the issues. Soon after we began those conversations Rev. Hawbaker tendered her resignation. Once she had made that decision, we negotiated the terms of her resignation. As part of that negotiation, we were instructed by our UUA representative on the exact language to use in announcing her resignation. We were also told that we were prohibited from taking other action or providing additional details. We were advised that we could not have a retirement party or other occasion to thank Rev. Hawbaker for her many years of service to FUUSM and the community.

This was a difficult time for our congregation. The Board's prohibition on communication, while providing time for emotions to settle, also delayed the process of healing. We hope that this explanation will answer many of your questions about what happened. And we are planning a follow-up Q&A session to provide an opportunity to address other questions you might have.

Since the start of the ministry of Rev. Young, there has been substantial progress toward the healing of our congregation. There are many visible signs and a tangible positive vibe. For our part, the Board is actively working to fill in missing critical elements in our policies and procedures. Along with you, we look forward to a FUUSM that is coalesced into the community of loving hearts that we all strive to be.

Board Briefs

FUUSM Board of Trustees Brief
October 5,2026 6:30 p.m. In the Parlor

Present: Evan Young (minister), Vic Elam, Robin Bozian, Nancy Lee, Darryl Ting, Shari Ballantyne, Lloyd Elliot, Betsy Liller, Don Poole (via Zoom)
Vic called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM
Chalice Lighting – Darryl Next month: Evan
September minutes stand as published.
September treasurer's report stands as published.
September Minister's report stands as published.
I. Old Business:
1. The board went into executive session to review Evan's evaluation. After coming out of executive session, the board agreed unanimously to extend Evan's contract. Shari will reach out to the finance committee about adjustments to his salary and report back to the board.
2. Don reported that Mennonite Mutual has renewed our insurance policy, the caveat

being that they will not cover damage related to the RE roof until it is replaced. Board voted unanimously to replace the roof on the RE building.
3. The subcommittee has drafted a statement regarding Kat's resignation. This will be reviewed by board members and then published in *The Confluence,* with listening sessions to follow.
4. With input from the UUA, the board unanimously agreed to let the current Chalice Lighter grant go and reapply for the grant to focus on building the RE program.
5. There is now a form available from Dawn for anyone who wants to have their end of life wishes recorded. Evan will talk with whoever is interested and reach out to congregants if clarification is needed.
6. The finance committee approved the board's request for a monthly Second Plate program; Betsy will reach out to W & M to see if they will oversee the program.
7. Evan has reached out to Kat and received a response.
II. . New Business:
• The board agreed to ask the finance committee for a line item discretionary fund.
• Evan will reach out to the Parkersburg Youth Transition Program about making a donation.
• Board agreed not to support a discretionary fund or credit card for church use as neither Dawn nor Don are in favor of these.
• The board approved a $300 donation to the Norwood UMC Thanksgiving meal.
• The board discussed guidelines for the use of coffee hour. A motion was made and passed unanimously that the fellowship hall is unavailable for private events on Sundays prior to 3 p.m.
• Service Recognition Award goes to Tom Flis and Roger Kalter; Vic will do the write-up; Shari will send cards.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Betsy L Liller, secretary