

The Confluence

News of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta, Ohio October 2026

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 (voice only). Rev. Evan Young is available by appointment: Mondays and Thursdays noon-3:30 via phone; or Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the FUUSM office. Email him at fuusm.minister@gmail.com, or call (740) 373-1238 to make an appointment with him. For the Confluence editor email tedgoertzel@gmail.com, [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: Courage (Our Covenant)

October 4 We Are All Leaders Here Rev. Evan Young

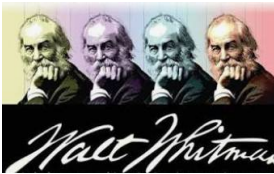
The late Senator J. William Fulbright said, “in a democracy, dissent is an act of faith.” And voting? That may be a sacrament. The free exercise of our voices and our votes, in the coming weeks and throughout our lives, can at its best be an embodiment of our most cherished ideals – if we have the courage to name and to live those ideals.



Special Music: [“We Resist”](#) by Mark A. Miller Choir under the direction of Martha Webster

Worship Associate: Betsy Liller

October 11 Embracing Our Many Selves Guest Speaker: Pete Mather



Traditionally, theories of human development propose that one of the major tasks of life is to discover our identity and fulfill our life’s purpose through that identity. Pete Mather will explore the limits of the proposition of a singular identity with a sole purpose. Drawing from Walt Whitman’s statement, “I am large; I contain multitudes,” we will explore the liberating idea that we are many selves and that none of them can be fulfilled in life. Instead, we flourish through embracing and nurturing our multiple selves and the experiences they offer us.

Worship Leader: Suzyn Mills

October 18 Free and Responsible Rev. Evan Young

Freedom and responsibility are at the core of our covenant as communities of faith. Freedom to be boldly and joyfully who we are, and responsibility to promote the good and thriving of each of us and all of us. Especially now, these are ideals worth proclaiming and defending.

Worship Associate: Martha McGovern

October 25 Pathways and Roadblocks to Voting Rights Guest Speaker: Jann Adams

As the long-awaited 2026 Midterm Election Day is upon us, let us pause to honor the past opportunities and struggles for voting rights that occurred during the time when the nation was stretching its borders and expanding with a diverse population. People within this changing American culture drew upon a myriad of character traits and values “to affirm, defend, and promote the equality, worth, and dignity of every person.” What a long road Americans have traveled to promote justice and keep the peace!



Worship Leader: Nancy Luthy

Calendar of Events

Saturday, October 3,

- 5-8 p.m., service auction event (progressive dinner at four members' homes)
- 4-7 p.m., Meet-and-greet and fundraiser for Washington County Commissioner candidate Dr. Brian Whalin; 6265 SR 676, Stockport. Donations in any amount will be appreciated. Randall Kidder will provide the music on Dr. Whalin's concert grand piano.

Sunday, October 4

- 9:30 a.m., **Choir practice**, social hall. New voices are always welcome!
- 11 a.m., **Sunday service**, sanctuary: *We Are All Leaders Here*,” with Rev. Evan Young.
- **Coffee hour!** Social hall, and then...
- Noon-5, **First Anniversary Potluck Party**, social hall. Bring a dish share and celebrate Stephanie and Joey Thomas's first full year of wedded bliss.



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Monday, October 5

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

Tuesday, October 6

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

Wednesday, October 7

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

Friday, October 9

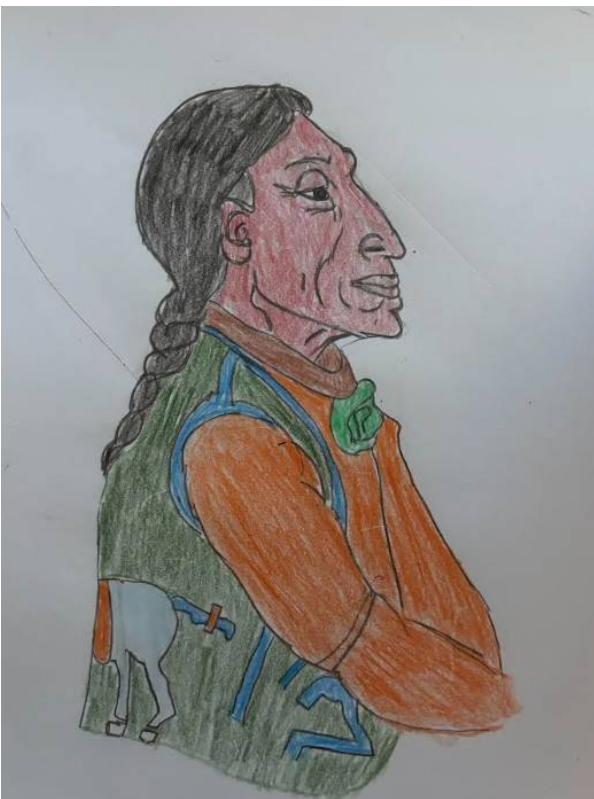
- 7 p.m., **Friday Night at the Movies**, screening *The Grand Hotel*, filmed in 1932, the fifth film to win the Best Picture Oscar. This is a service auction event, but those who didn't pay for the series then can still attend for \$5 (to benefit FUUSM).

Saturday, October 10

- 7 p.m., service auction event at Shari Ballantyne's house (Wine and Dine Evening)

Sunday, October 11

- 9:30 a.m., **Choir practice**, social hall. New voices are always welcome!
- 11 a.m., **Sunday service**, sanctuary: *Embracing Our Many Selves*, with Pete Mather, guest speaker.
- 11 a.m., MOV Friends (Quaker) meeting, RE parlor
- **Coffee hour!** Social hall. Ends at 1 p.m.,



Original Art by Amy Rush

Monday, October 12

• Indigenous Peoples Day

Indigenous Peoples' Day^[a] is an official city and [state holiday](#) in various localities in the [United States](#) that celebrates and honors [Indigenous American](#) peoples ([Native Americans](#)) and commemorates their histories and cultures.^[1] It is celebrated on the second Monday in October. It began as a [counter-celebration](#) held on the same day as the U.S. [federal holiday](#) of [Columbus Day](#), which honors Italian explorer [Christopher Columbus](#). It is celebrated as an alternative to Columbus Day, citing the lasting harm Indigenous tribes suffered because of Columbus's contributions to the [European colonization of the Americas](#).^[2] From Wikipedia.

[Click Here for the Rest of the Calendar, Updated](#)

Service Recognition Award

Our Reliable, Hard-Working Building Steward, Wendy Frye

Every Sunday morning, we enter a clean sanctuary, kitchen, nursery, and RE parlor. We're so used to it being reliably clean that we don't even think about how it got that way.



You might not recognize her face or even know her name, but twice a week, Wendy Frye dusts every pew and window sill in the sanctuary, vacuums the carpet (upstairs, down, and those scary steps), takes out the trash and recycling, sanitizes and replaces batteries in the hearing assistance devices, cleans the bathrooms, refills the paper towel dispensers, mops the kitchen and bathroom floors, changes lightbulbs, waters our plants, sanitizes tables and countertops, and otherwise cleans up after us. Oh, and Wendy cleans the entire RE building, too. And, did we

mention she mows our grass, trims vegetation, blows leaves and grass, and sweeps or shovels snow...all in under 15 hours/ week! All of this just skims the surface of the work she does to keep FUUSM not only clean and tidy, but up and running, consistently going above and beyond what her job description entails.

We are grateful to Wendy for her thoroughness, her reliability, her good attitude, her exceptional work ethic, and her keen eye for spotting little problems before they become big. Wendy has been in this position since 2021, and we hope she will keep this "retirement job" for many years to come.

Sent by Betsy Liller

Editor's Note: Wendy asked us not to run a picture. Illustration by ChatGPT.



Committee Fair September 27



Photos from Ralph Olander

Drumming in the Courtyard on a Saturday Afternoon

[Click Here for Video with Sound](#)



Sent by Roger Kalter

Men's Group Goes Alcohol Free in October

Our upcoming Men's Group meeting will take place in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, October 21st. Please note that this will be an alcohol-free gathering as we try out a new idea to bring everyone together. All interested are invited to attend! We meet in the Social Hall on Wednesday, October 21, at 6 pm. Tom Flis will host.



Saturday courtyard drumming session with 35 participants.
Photos by Roger Kalter



The community's Blessing Box/Free Little Library. Thanks to Richard Thieret and Wenda Sheard. See Roger Kalter to sign a thank-you card. Suggestions are welcome for a plaque to be installed below the roof's peak.



Jim and Suzanne Jelineck of Wooster with grandchildren. Married in a UU wedding in 2008. At the drumming

Work Party Saturday, October 24, 10 to Noon

The Building and Grounds work party gives volunteers an opportunity to spruce up our grounds and buildings. All are welcome. For efficiency, please let Roger Kalter, Linda Lewis or Dawn Hewitt know you plan to attend. Please offer suggestions for projects by October 10, such as repairing chairs, caulking, and sanding and sealing doors in the RE building.



Board Briefs

September 14, 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

Vic called the meeting to order at 6:29 PM

Chalice Lighting - Betsy Next month: Darryl

August minutes stand as published.

August treasurer's report stands as published.

Minister's report: Evan briefly reviewed his minister's report and it was accepted as submitted. He also shared that he has reached out to Kat via e-mail to develop a covenantal agreement as is standard when a new minister is hired.

I. Old Business:

- The subcommittee is continuing to work on their statement regarding Kat's resignation. Nancy Luthy reached out to Robin and gave her input.
- Don Poole is looking into the insurance policy and will update us as needed.
- Chalice Lighter Grant: Darryl will contact the UUA person overseeing our grant to verify how much flexibility we have to change the focus of the work from the proposal in our application.

II. . New Business:

- We discussed congregants having a means to register their wishes for end of life. All were in agreement that we offer this option. Shari and Dawn will meet with Evan to develop a process for gathering and storing this information.
- The board unanimously agreed that we would likely endorse special collections/ second plate options. We are suggesting once per month with named charities aligning with our monthly theme. Shari will take this to the finance committee.
- Kudos to Tom Flis who is hard at work, taking responsibility for permitting and installing railings for our walkways to the handicapped parking spaces.
- Service Recognition Award goes to Wendy Frye. Betsy will ask Dawn to do the write-up; Shari will send a card.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Legal Psilocybin Facilitation, Guided by a Unitarian Universalist

Psychedelic-Assisted Healing for Unitarian Universalists

Rev. Jeremy Nickel, an ordained UU minister and Colorado Licensed Natural Medicine Facilitator, works with people seeking legal, supported psilocybin experiences in Colorado. You do not need to be a Colorado resident: adults from other states can travel to Colorado to participate legally in the state's regulated natural medicine program.

Drawing on more than a decade in congregational ministry and decades of experience

with psychedelics, meditation and spiritual practice, Jeremy brings a distinctly UU perspective to this work. His approach welcomes people across religious, spiritual and non-spiritual understandings, including those who are curious about psychedelic-assisted healing or considering a journey of their own.

Learn more about working with Jeremy:

<https://frpt.org/unitarian-universalist>

Need a House Cleaner or Caterer?

John Beall Jr., the ever-so helpful deaf gentleman who visits our congregation, is looking for homes and offices to clean. He was a housecleaner in Columbus for 15 years, serving 22 homes and one office. He also caters (and your church lady can attest that he is a great cook and baker!), including preparing food, serving, and thorough cleanup. If interested, text (740) 336-9629 or email bealljrjohn@gmail.com. But don't call him: he's deaf!