

The Confluence

News of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta, Ohio

September 2025 - Labor Day Issue

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 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

September 7

Water Communion

Our traditional Water Communion service will feature music written and performed by the late Laura Serna-Maytorena. The in-gathering ceremony honors water as the source and sustainer of life, and as we pour our water contributions into a communal vessel, we illustrate how we as individuals become one in a beloved community. Please bring a vial of water that represents a place or experience of significance to you. In addition, we will have a resource pitcher of water available, and virtual water is also welcome.

Worship Leader: Martha McGovern



September 14

Insights from UUA General Assembly 2025

What goes on at the annual UUA General Assembly? Should we care? What does it have to do with us? Don Poole, a long-time Unitarian Universalist and our FUUSM treasurer and delegate to this year's General Assembly, will share some experiences and take-aways from his first attendance at the General Assembly.

Worship Leader: Adeline Bailey Guest Speaker: Don Poole



September 21 High Holy Days – New Year, New Spirit

In this service, we acknowledge our Judeo-Christian heritage and explore the observance of Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur, the day that concludes a 10-day period of rigorous spiritual self-examination. We are happy to welcome back Deborah Pires as our guide to the meaning and traditions of these holy days and what we, as UUs, can learn from them. She will appear live via Zoom for the Reflection, as she did when she spoke on Parents Day this past spring. She is a retired college professor, published author, actor, watercolorist, and engaging speaker.
Worship Leader: Nancy Luthy Guest Speaker: Deborah Pires



[Blowing the Shofar on High Holy Days.](#) [Audio Here.](#)

September 28 At the Table with Gods & Prophets

Caitlin Harrison, a friend of FUUSM, will share how growing up in a home built around the values of diversity, open expression, and pluralistic views helped mold and shape her life.

Worship Leader: Suzyn Mills Guest Speaker: Caitlin Harrison

Calendar of Events

Sunday, August 31

- 9:30 a.m., **Choir practice**, sanctuary.
- 11 a.m., **Sunday service**, sanctuary.
- **Coffee hour!** Social hall. Ends at 1 p.m.

Monday, Sept 1: Labor Day Holiday, FUUSM Office closed

- Labor Day rallies sponsored by Indivisible MOV (see below)
- 6:30 p.m., ~~FUUSM Board of Trustees meeting~~, postponed until Sept. 8

Wednesday, Sept. 3

- 5 p.m., **Worship & Music Committee** meeting, RE parlor.
- 6:30 Indivisible MOV meeting, the Gathering Place.

Saturday, Sept. 6

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

Sunday, Sept. 7

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

Monday, Sept. 8

- 2 p.m., **Caring Committee** via Zoom
- 6:30 p.m., **FUUSM Board of Trustees meeting**, RE parlor.??????
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Wednesday, Sept. 10

- 6 p.m., Women's Group potluck, social hall. Steph Rector and Anita Newhart will host.

Saturday, Sept. 13

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



[Click Here to see the Full Month's Calendar of Events, updated as things change](#)

The federal workplace is becoming the next victim of Christian supremacy

by Eric Engle, speaker at FUUSM Service August 31, 2025

On Monday, July 28th, the Trump administration Office of Personnel Management (OPM) issued a memo, in conjunction with the White House Faith Office (established in February) stating that federal employees can attempt to persuade other employees of the “correctness” of their religious beliefs in the workplace, provided that this proselytizing is not “harassing in nature.” Employees may also, according to the memo, display bibles, religious artwork, jewelry, posters displaying religious messages and other religious items including, but not limited to, crosses, crucifixes and mezuzot.

To read the rest of this story connect to [Eric Engle's Substack](#)

Board Briefs

August 4, 2025 Board Members present: Vic Elam, Ron Rees, Darryl Ting, Robin Bozian, Shari Ballantyne, Lloyd Elliot, Betsy Liller, Don Poole

The July minutes stand as published. Don gave an in-depth treasury report which

was accepted unanimously. Robin will talk with the MCF about an endowment operating fund with an investment and spending policy.

Our posting for a part-time minister is now live on the UUA site. Board agreed to stick with candidates that are UUA vetted.

Lela will continue to provide weekly childcare. She will be paid for her time whether or not children are present. As we build our family memberships, we will be looking for parent volunteers to help out on a rotating basis.

Ron has been trying to get a safety committee established with others showing little interest. He will send a draft of a safety policy, borrowed heavily from the UUA, to the board for review and comment.

The board agreed to update our grievance policy to include conflict resolution. Board will set up a time to meet with Beth Casebolt to review our policies regarding a full-time minister.

Service Recognition Award: Stephanie Rector

Next regular board meeting is September 8, 2025

Respectfully submitted, Betsy Liller, Secretary

Service Award: Stephanie "Squish" Rector

The Board is pleased to honor Stephanie "Squish" Rector with the Service Recognition award. Over the past two years, Stephanie has provided leadership on several large projects for FUUSM.

Squish coordinated the 2024 Yard Sale, the 2025 Plant Sale, and the 2025 Yard Sale. In 2025, she expanded the Plant and Yard Sales to include a bake sale. And the 2025 Yard Sale was the most successful ever!

Beyond her leadership and coordination skills, Squish also has a talent for organization.

Through a privately funded project, Squish organized the library in the parlor of the RE building, cataloged it all on the computer in a sharable file that can has been posted on the [FUUSM.org](https://www.fuusm.org) website, and established a checkout and return process. And she established the small Search for Truth library in the Fellowship Hall.

And on top of all that, she sings in the choir!

Thank you Squish, for bringing your many talents to make FUUSM better!

Sent by Darryl Ting

Fall Work Party September 27

All volunteers are welcome to the Saturday, September 27, UU Fall work party.

All abilities and disabilities welcome. Something for everyone or double your money back. Volunteers are encouraged from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, September 27 to help tackle various tasks. No special skills are required for some tasks, but carpentry, mechanical, chainsaw and caulking skills will be needed for several. One of goals for the work party is to match unskilled but willing to learn with skilled workers.



For a successful work party, it is most helpful to have advance knowledge of who plans to come, for safety and efficiency. Jim Grecni and Roger G Kalter are coordinating the work party to be safe, maximize work efficiency and to have fun. Jim and Roger are working with FUUSM building steward Wendy Paskawych and church lady Dawn Hewitt on a list of 15-20 projects before us. Any projects not completed will be offered to those who can't come on September 27. Several will have to be contracted because of safety, complexity, and age of the volunteers. Those with chainsaw, pew repair, and caulking skills will be most welcome. Food for volunteers is also welcome. Please contact Jim Grecni, Roger G Kalter or Dawn Hewitt (during office hours) to let us know you plan to join us and special skills you can offer.

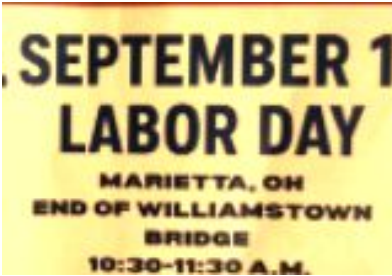
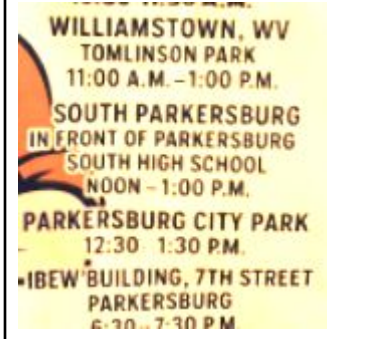
Roger prefers text or phone calls to (740) 525-1833.



Haikus by FUUSM Members

Life is chaotic Then pause for joy A baby's giggle —Robin Bozian	So much to do Not enough time But always time to laugh —Robin Bozian
Gaza in rubble - all that money spent on weapons while skeletons starve —Martha McGovern	My pen alights on pristine paper, awaits ideas to fill its wings . . . —Martha McGovern
Living in two worlds - mine moving on in clock time his paused in stillness —Martha McGovern	Clean sheets at day's end - a canoe of cool crinkle floating to lavender sleep —Martha McGovern
<i>Afternoon Tea at the Cup Plant</i> Bee pollinators Gently touching on yellow Cup plant blossoms —George Banziger	<i>Reflection on Artificial Intelligence</i> Chat GTP makes Haiku seem to fit by form Not meditation! —George Banziger
 Read Nicole Livengood's post on Haikus as Meditative Practice here.	These Haikus were in response to Nicole Livengood's August 10 FUUSM presentation on <i>Haiku as Meditation</i> <i>Two below zero Frozen hearts destroy the world And yet – a rainbow</i> - Nicole Livengood

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.** The Membership Committee has placed 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

	<p>These vigils are sponsored by Indivisible MOV, which will be having its next meeting at 6:30 on September 3 at The Gathering Place, 175 N. 7th St. on the Marietta College Campus. <i>Sent by Lori Flis.</i></p>	
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Sewer repairs underway. By Dawn Hewitt



Yard Sale photos by Ralph Olander.



LeeAnn Gallucci performing on August 17





Photos of a Service Auction Dinner by Shari Ballantyne



Service Auction Motorcycle Event Won by Beth Lapore



Photos of Diana Bonnell, Maggie Myer, Sara Swisher and Martha McGovern taken 8/28/25 on the trip to the Dairy Barn Art Center in Athens, OH to see the Quilt National 25.