

The Confluence

News of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta, OH
tedgoertzel@gmail.com, editor

September 2023

A Voice of Liberal Religion in the Mid-Ohio Valley
Open Minds, Helping Hands, and Loving Hearts

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.office@gmail.com, or call (740) 373-1238.



The church at Third and Putnam, Marietta OH



The Religious Education Building and church offices next door to the church building at 232 Third Street, Marietta OH.

Photos from Ralph Olander. [Click here](#) for more photos.

[Click Here for Information on Becoming a Member](#)

Sunday Services

11am in the Church Sanctuary

Sun. Sept. 3 “Finding Ourselves in the Changing World of Work”

Worship Leader: Martha McGovern

The world of work and its economic framework have both consistent and shifting elements that impact our lives. How can we find security in insecurity, meaning in

depersonalization, wholeness in fragmentation? We will survey the current scene and present some possible answers.

Sun. Sept. 10 Annual Ingathering (All Ages Service)

(Bring a sample of water)

Water Ceremony “Protect & Sustain Our Sacred Source of Life.”

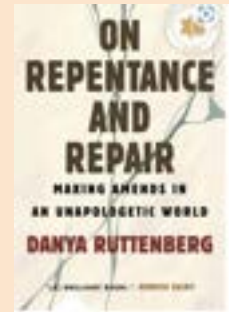
Rev. K. Hawbaker; Rebecca Phillips, worship associate

This special service invites everyone to join in person or via Zoom and share a small sample of water you have collected from a place special to you. We pour the water into a common bowl, so that we might symbolize our diverse gifts in our shared Beloved Community. We will have special music from Laura & Jerry and we will also affirm the Covenant of the FUUSM Board of Trustees and their leadership role with the congregation.

Sun. Sept. 17 “On Repentance & Repair” -Rev.

K. Hawbaker. The [UUA Common Read](#) is by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg and we have copies available for purchase or for loan. Forgiveness is a spiritual practice. We forgive ourselves and each other, we begin again in love. Restorative Circles are a tool for addressing conflict and broken covenant.

Nothing worthwhile is easy, and the step to make amends in 12-step programs is hard.



*6:30 -8:30pm Board Orientation Session (social hall)

Sun. Sept. 24 “Homelessness Here”

Reflection by Robin Bozian. Learn more about the efforts in the mid-Ohio valley to address housing insecurity.

FUUSM COMMITTEE FAIR during Social Hour (Noon-1pm)

Monthly Calendar of Activities

Sunday, Sept. 3

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

Monday, Sept. 4: Labor Day, FUUSM OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, Sept. 5

- 3:30-6:30 p.m., Girl Scouts in social hall.

Wednesday, Sept. 6

- Noon, **Meditation** via [Zoom](#).
- 5 p.m., **Worship & Music committee** meeting, RE parlor.
- 7 p.m., **Third Congregational Dialogue** on minister's performance.

Saturday, Sept. 9

- 3-5 p.m., African drumming, RE courtyard or social hall. \$15 donation recommended.

Sunday, Sept. 10

- 9:30 a.m., **Choir practice**, sanctuary.
- 11 a.m., **Sunday service**, sanctuary: Water Ceremony.
- 11 a.m., MOV Quaker meeting, RE Parlor
- **Coffee hour!** Social hall.
- 12:15, **Committee on Ministries**, RE parlor

Monday, Sept. 11

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

Tuesday, Sept. 12

- Noon, UU+ Book Group, Parkersburg Country Club.
- 3:30-6:30 p.m., Girl Scouts in social hall.

Wednesday, Sept. 13

- Noon, **Meditation** via [Zoom](#).
- 1 p.m., **Women's Group potluck**, Rising Moon Farm (home of host Chris Hoke), near Middlebourne, WV. Carpooling is recommended. [Click here for Directions](#).

Sunday, Sept. 17

- 9:30 a.m., **Choir practice**, sanctuary.
- 9:30 a.m. **Today's Issues group**, RE Building Parlor.
- 11 a.m., **Sunday service**, sanctuary.
- **Coffee hour!** Social hall.
- **12:30 p.m., Green Sanctuary Committee** meeting, RE parlor and Zoom.
- 6:30 p.m., **FUUSM Board of Trustees** retreat, RE parlor.

Tuesday, Sept. 19

- 3:30-6:30 p.m., Girl Scouts, social hall.

Wednesday, Sept. 20: Confluence content due

- Noon, **Meditation** via [Zoom](#).
- 6:00 p.m., **Men's Group potluck**, social hall. Gary Hamilton and Bill McClain will host.
-

Friday, Sept. 22

- 9:30 a.m., **Membership Committee** meeting, RE parlor.
- 11 a.m., **Chalice Lighters Committee** project, RE building, upstairs.

Saturday, Sept. 23: Autumnal equinox

Sunday, Sept. 24

- 9:30 a.m., **Choir practice**, sanctuary.
- 9:30 a.m., **Buildings & Grounds committee** meeting, social hall.
- 9:30 a.m. **Today's Issues** group, RE building parlor
- 11 a.m., **Sunday service**, sanctuary.
- 11 a.m., **Quaker meeting**, RE parlor.
- **Coffee Hour and Committee Fair**, social hall. FUUSM runs on volunteer power (as well as solar power)! Our members and friends contribute their time and money to make this congregation operational and keep it functioning. We need you: your brains, your brawn, your ideas, your collaboration. Here is your opportunity to figure out where you fit in, and how you can help. We need you!

Monday, Sept. 25

- 7 p.m., **Finance Committee** meeting via Zoom.

Tuesday, Sept. 26

- 3:30-6:30 p.m., Girl Scouts, social hall.

Wednesday, Sept. 26

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

Saturday, Sept. 30

- 6 p.m., Sustainable Supper potluck, social hall, hosted by the Green Sanctuary Committee. Bring a mindfully prepared dish to share and enjoy an environmentally righteous buffet!

Sunday, October 1

- 9:30 a.m., **Choir practice**, sanctuary.
- 9:30 a.m., **Today's Issues** group, RE parlor.
- 11 a.m., **Sunday service**, sanctuary.
- **Coffee Hour!**
- 12:15 p.m., **Committee on Ministries**, RE parlor.

Sunday, Oct. 22

- 9:30 a.m. Today's Issues Group in the RE Building Parlor
- 12:30 p.m., FUUSM Committee Recharge, for all committee chairs and co-chairs and Board of Trustees members.

Happy Birthday

Sue Montera (9/3) Alex Richendollar (9/3) Stephanie (Squish) Rector (9/4) Lucas Harrison (9/9) Melinda McDowell (9/9) Joe Baker (9/10) Lucy Filipow (9/14) Tom Cunningham (9/17) Ralph Olander (9/19) Robin Bozian (9/22) Axelton Sheaves (9/22) Lukas McDowell (9/26) Andrew Clovis (9/29) Mike Lang (9/29) Chris Keller (9/30)

Universalism at the Confluence

by Justin LaPoint

FUUSM Minister 1978-1990



Universalists founded a society in Marietta in 1817 and later, in the 1840s, built a wooden church on the flood plain. The Native Americans had warned the pioneers that “Where water has been, water will come again.” Indeed, water came again and ruined the wooden church by the early 1850s.

Nahum Ward, community leader and birth rite Unitarian, established a Unitarian Society in 1855. Two years later a beautiful brick Gothic style Church was completed to house the 5 Unitarian families which made up the Society. This Gothic wonder featured hollow walls to allow the flood waters to drain.

So, the Universalists had a sizable congregation and a flood-ruined building, and the Unitarians had 5 families and a Gothic cathedral. In 1869, the two societies joined to form the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta, Ohio.

In January 1978, I began my duties as Minister of FUUSM. Rachel and our then three-year-old son, John began our lives in Marietta house sitting for a friend of one of the church “pillars” before we moved into our own house which the church helped us purchase. The next year, our daughter Alice was born in nearby Beverly, Ohio. We stayed in Marietta 12 years, leaving in 1990 for Murray Grove in New Jersey where I took on the role of Executive Director.

Not long after our arrival in Marietta, I renamed the church newsletter, “The Confluence” not only to recognize the two great rivers but also to honor the Unitarians and Universalists who came together nearly 100 years before consolidation at the national level....

[Click here to read the rest of this sermon](#) on the role of universalism within the Unitarian Universalist movement. There is nothing more about FUUSM history, however.

Rev. LaPoint is active in the [Universalist Convocation](#), a group dedicated to preserving the spiritual roots of American Universalism. This essay was prepared for the 2016 meeting of the Convocation which was in Marietta. After twelve years as our minister and six years as Executive Director of the Murray Grove Retreat and Conference Center, a UU facility at the New Jersey shore, Rev. Lapoint went on to be Minister at the Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church in Seven Springs, NC. He is now Minister Emeritus. Several of our long time members have warm recollections of him.



The “Confluence” where the Muskingum flows into the Ohio

Welcome to Our Newest Members



The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that two friends of FUUSM have chosen to become members: **Jay Warmke** and **Jimi Braswell** "signed the book" on Sunday, August 20th.

Many of us have benefited from Jay serving coffee, and we have delighted in seeing Jimi with his smiling “mini-me” perched on his shoulder during the service. Jimi and his wife, Heather, first attended FUUSM in February. Jay and his wife, Annie, have been active in the congregation for quite some time, and with the

establishment of Jay’s office in Marietta, they are now even more closely involved with the local community.

Our two new members connected with each other on solar energy and electrical systems, and they have already generously shared their knowledge and experience with several folks in the congregation. Please help us welcome them and get to know them!

- Submitted by Adeline Bailey for the Membership/Welcoming Committee. Photo by Annie Warmke

[Click Here](#) for Information on How to Become a Member

Board Briefs

The Board of Trustees met on August 14th in the Parlor.

Don Poole, our new Treasurer presented a detailed report. Two concerns: deficit spending is not sustainable and our Electric Bill is higher than expected. Ron Rees will contact AEP.

The Minister's Report included the Dave Ballantyne Memorial Service, work with the child-care attendants, providing UUA resources, and a successful vacation.

The Chalice Lighter Grant Committee has plans to upgrade some rooms in the RE building, move forward with plans to include our youth in Sunday services and other

activities.

The Board approved the Policy/Procedure revision re: Congregational Meetings. The proposed changes were sent to the Congregation inviting “feedback” before the Board votes to adopt this revision at the September Board Meeting.

In preparation for Kat's Sabbatical, a profile was prepared for Kat to collect data about Time Allocations for various Duties of the Minister.

The Board voted to accept the revised form for use of the building, including better language regarding release of liability.

The Board will hold a Board Retreat September 17th, 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

There will be a Committee Recharge event for the Board and Committee Chairpersons October 22nd.

Joe Baker is resigning as Chair of the Buildings & Grounds Committee.

Nancy Luthy, Secretary

This Month's Service Recognition Award

Adeline Bailey (and Green Sanctuary) for the “Plastic Free July” project.

Adeline Bailey Makes it Easy Being Green

by Vic Elam

One of the first people I had the privilege to come to know when I first came to FUUSM 4 years ago was Adeline. Adeline greeted me, took interest in me, and made me feel comfortable here. As I became more involved in FUUSM and I got to know Adeline better, I began to see how involved and helpful Adeline is, especially with the Green Sanctuary Committee. I'd rather be poked in the eye with a stick than take meeting minutes, but, as secretary of the Green Sanctuary Committee, Adeline does that and does it very well. Adeline was instrumental in establishing the Honoring Indigenous People group and is involved with other climate concern organizations. Adeline is always working to bring climate and contaminant information programs to anyone willing to listen. Adeline and Mike not only talk the talk but they walk the walk as well, driving a hybrid and powering their home with solar energy. From my perspective, Adeline is another of the great role models that are pervasive throughout the FUUSM Congregation



Kat's Korner

Going One Way on a Two Way Road

When I moved off-campus in college, my friend and I were roommates, with very different work and class schedules. We didn't prioritize time to meet, so we started leaving notes. At first they were helpful and then they took on a more critical tone. We had to sit down together with deep breaths, some tears and frustration, but we affirmed our love and care for one another and resolved to do better with our communication.



Perhaps you've heard the phrase in leadership development - "If your only tool is a hammer, then everything starts to look like a nail."

There are many tools available for conflict resolution and group processes. Some excellent resources are available through Leader Lab and other UUA resources, workshops and webinars. Throughout the UUA and in many religious communities there has been a pattern of discord, exacerbated by the changing social dynamics of pandemic and recovery.

This last year we endeavored to re-open, and recover to full service and be fully functioning in our F.U.U.S.M. congregational structures and opportunities. Many have helped to bring new ideas to fruition and strengthen our outreach and welcome. What will be our focus this year??

Committees may seem outdated or boring, but they are another example of teamwork. Circles of connection enable us to meet together and work with common purpose toward a shared vision of our vibrant religious community. Small groups and teams can be more flexible, effectively working together with input from the stakeholders who are most impacted by the programs we create. One thing I've learned from the pandemic period is how important it is to be flexible. It is one of the ways a small congregation can maximize its potential. We also learn through experiments and adjustments, gathering input and insights from different perspectives, for the best outcome and results.

I have focused on communication skills throughout my studies, ministry and life experiences. I have learned that I can only choose for myself, I cannot control what others do, nor do I want to impinge on their freedom of expression. What I say and do is my responsibility and I try to model the standards of behavior that we aspire to. Others will make their own choices. I have witnessed the negativity of emails in several different congregations and contexts and I will not engage that way. To me it is rather like talking at someone, rather than with them.

In faith and with respect,
Bright Blessings, Rev. Kathryn Hawbaker

Volunteers Needed to Get Started on the Season's Greetings Project

Preparing for a FUUSM Holiday Tradition: In Service of Season's Greetings!

It's only September, but the Holiday Card Project Team of the Membership Committee is looking for some help in advance prep work for our all-ages community service project!

What is this project?

In Service of Season's Greetings brings us all together - young and old(er) in the Social Hall after the worship service for a "workshop" where we write messages of love and holiday cheer on cards that will be delivered in person to area nursing care facilities and distributed to residents . For several years, we've carried on the project originated by **John Maddox**, who has already generously donated a passel of new cards that we need to identify as coming from FUUSM (we have a stamp!) before the workshop (tentatively scheduled for late November).

There are several other advance prep items that we can begin taking care of ahead of the holiday rush. Most importantly, the team would love to have a volunteer or two devise some simple projects for the young ones to work on, either before the workshop day, or at the same time as older folks are writing their greetings.

Closer to the workshop day, we'll be looking for some additional volunteer help with organizing the materials.*It has been suggested that we make the greetings more personal by getting names of residents in the facilities. If you'd like that to happen, we invite you to sign up to help us make it so.

If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Adeline Bailey (adesign4199@gmail.com; or **TEXT ONLY Please** 740-516-4199) so we can arrange a couple of work days at mutually agreeable times.

So What Exactly is the Today's Issues Group?

By L.P. (Pat) McGovern

You may have noticed "Today's Issues" listed at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday on the weekly schedule. [*Resuming from summer break on September 17, 2023*]. The "Today's Issues" group meets in the front parlor of the RE Building.

"Today's Issues" used to be known as Adult RE, until we gave up that title because it no longer really applied. Now there's a separate group with the Adult RE title.

The "Today's Issues" group only occasionally discusses strictly religious topics. Religion is not our sole, nor even frequent, topic.

Nevertheless, we see ourselves as within the UU framework because we feel we are practicing "the free and disciplined search for truth" every Sunday (to quote our affirmation).

This may sound like a lofty goal for a smallish Sunday morning discussion group,



and it probably is, but, nevertheless, we attempt it every Sunday – and have a good time doing so.

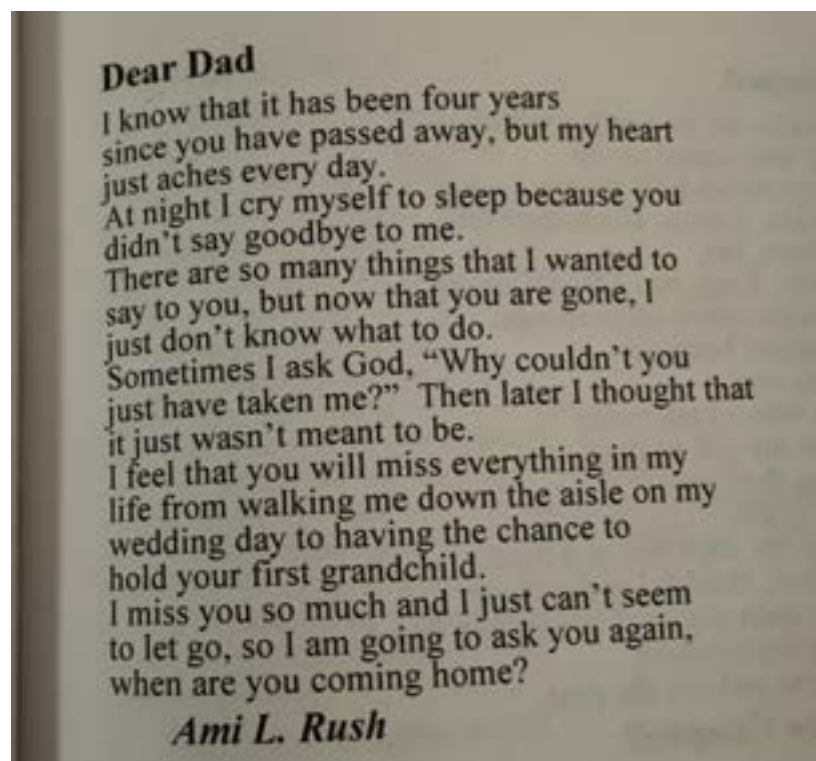
[To read the rest of this essay by Pat McGovern \(1930-2013\), an organizer of the Today's Issues Group and Martha McGovern's late husband, click here.](#)

Jewish sources and traditions are honored here at FUUSM. We plan to create a version of the Sukkot in the courtyard as we strive to deepen our understanding of the community and the rich sources, stories and symbolism of the Jewish High Holidays. This shelter is a focal point for the gathering of Beloved Community, and a celebration of the Fall Harvest season. From Kat Hawbaker.



Dear Dad: A Poem by Ami Rush

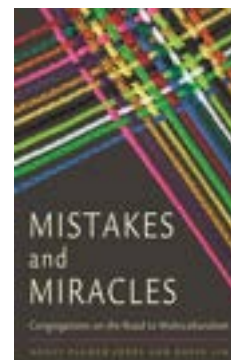
I wrote this 25 years ago after my father's death and I had it published with other writers. Today my dad would have been 74 years old so it just seems fit to share it.



Mistakes and Miracles
Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism
Reviewed by Ted Goertzel

This book was the “Common Read” of the Unitarian Universalist Association for 2022-23, intended to inspire congregations to “create multicultural, antiracist Beloved community.” The hope was that this would help the denomination recruit more racially and ethnically diverse members. That goal proved largely unattainable, and the authors report on their “frustrations and disappointments as well as hope and wonder.”

After visiting five congregations that made valiant efforts to implement the UUA’s policies, the authors confess that “both of us feel discouraged. What stories will we have to tell, if even this congregation [Annapolis, Md] is struggling? More important, what hope can we hold for Unitarian Universalism if this work is just so damn hard? We both wonder about the validity of this book project. We both wonder about the prospects for our faith.” [Kindle edition, page 377].



Why so many problems? The congregations studied in this book really tried. They recruited ministers of color and ministers who could preach in Spanish. They held extensive workshops on antiracism. But they found that not very many Black or Hispanic people want to belong to a UU congregation even with that focus. The current members are often more involved with environmental or LGBTQ issues. Unitarian Universalism remains one of America’s whitest denominations. America has many religious options and people of color who want to belong to a church mostly already have one suited to their taste. Three large affiliations already have quite diverse memberships: the Jehovah’s Witnesses, the Seventh Day Adventists and the Muslims. A great many Black people choose to belong to churches with almost entirely Black congregations. Here are the [most recent data I can find](#), (The UUA statistics department refuses to release its most recent data.)

Unitarian Universalism appeals mostly to people with higher education and scientific worldviews who are skeptical of traditional theologies. There are Black and Hispanic people who share this perspective, but they are a small percentage just as they are of the White population. And they may not feel that they can be most effective with a UU affiliation. Coretta Scott King and Martin Luther King attended Unitarian churches when they were in Boston, but they concluded that “we could never build a mass movement of black people if we were Unitarian” ([UU World Magazine](#)).

The five case studies in this book are informative, especially about what doesn’t work. If you didn’t get through last year’s “common read”, which bogs down a bit with the authors’ soul searching, you can get many of the details from your editor’s [summaries](#).

Learning in Retirement Courses Start September 25

The Institute for Learning and Retirement at Marietta College offers inexpensive non-credit adult education courses that meet from 3 to 5 pm on weekdays. One course this term is on Zoom, the others are on campus. Quite a few FUUSM members have been

involved in this over the years since it was started by George Banziger (then a dean at the College). Two members are teaching this term, Rebecca Phillips is the ILR director. The courses are open to people of all ages, you don't have to be retired.

The courses to be offered this Fall are:

The Arts & Crafts Movement

Four Foreign Films About Food and Family (taught by Dave Cress)

Founding Principles of Our Republic

Living Democracy, Engaging Citizens

Banned and Challenged Books

Curating Your Life

Artificial Intelligence You Can Use Today (Zoom class taught by Ted Goertzel)

Confrontations with the Reaper: A Philosophical Study of the Nature and Value of Death

[Click here for course descriptions and details](#)

Photos from the Yard Sale



from George Banziger



From Annie Warmke



From Annie Warmke



from Annie Warmke



from Annie Warmke



from Annie Warmke



A Monarch Butterfly Nectaring on Cosmos, Offspring of Chris Hoke's Seeds
Photo from Rebecca Phillips.