

# The Confluence

News of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta, OH  
A Voice of Liberal Religion in the Mid-Ohio Valley  
Open Minds, Helping Hands, and Loving Hearts

## March 2023

**Services are held each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. in person in the Sanctuary of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta, 232 Third St., Marietta, OH 45750. The services are also available on Facebook (search for FUUSM) and on [Zoom](#).**

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@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:fuusm@suddenlinkmail.com) or [fuusm.office@gmail.com](mailto:fuusm.office@gmail.com), or call (740) 373-1238.

## Calendar of Events

### Wednesday, March 1

- 12–1 p.m., **Meditation** via [Zoom](#).
- 5–7 p.m., **Worship & Music Committee**, RE parlor and Zoom.

### Sunday, March 5

- 9:30–10:45 a.m. **New UU** course in Social Hall
- 9:30 a.m. **Today's Issues** discussion in the RE Building parlor and on [Zoom](#).
- 9:30 a.m. **Choir practice** in the Sanctuary.
- 11:00 a.m. **Sunday Service in the Sanctuary. Keep on Moving Forward** -Rev. K. Hawbaker. In honor of Women's Herstory Month we lift up voices and stories of women's lives within our congregation and in the larger world. Women step from the pages to share sorrow and wisdom born of struggle and perseverance. We are never turning back. LeeAnn Gallucci will share special music in this service. Committee on Ministries will serve as greeters
- 12:15 p.m., **Committee on Ministries**, RE building parlor

### Monday, March 6

- 2 p.m. **Caring Committee**, RE building parlor
- 6:30 p.m. **Choir Practice** in the Sanctuary
- 7:00 pm **Finance Committee** in Zoom

Tuesday, March 7, 3:30-6:30 p.m., Girl Scouts meet in the Social Hall.

### Wednesday, March 8

- 12–1 p.m., **Meditation** via [Zoom](#).

- 6 p.m. **Women's Group** in the social hall, with Virginia Henthorn, Betsy Kalter, and Anita Newhart hosting.

### **Sunday, March 12**

- 9:30–10:45 a.m. **New UU** course in Social Hall
- 9:30 a.m. **Today's Issues** discussion in the RE Building parlor and on [Zoom](#).
- 9:30 a.m. **Choir practice** in the Sanctuary.
- 11:00 a.m. **Sunday Service in the Sanctuary. Waging Peace.** The FUUSM Choir will sing and Katy McDaniel will share with us about women and their activity in the peace movements.
- 11:00 a.m. **Marietta Quaker Meeting** in the RE Building parlor

### **Monday, March 13**

- 6:30–8:30 Board of Trustees in the RE Building parlor

### **Tuesday, March 14**

- Noon, UU Plus Women's Book Group, Parkersburg Country Club
- 3:30–6:30 Girl Scouts meet in the social hall.

### **Wednesday, March 15**

- 12–1 p.m., **Meditation** via [Zoom](#).
- 6:30–8:30 pm. **Men's Group** in the Social Hall

### **Thursday, March 16**

- 6:30–9:30 p.m. Mid-OhioValley Climate Action public meeting in the social hall.

### **Saturday, March 18**

- 10–11a.m. Tai chi reunion, social hall

### **Sunday, March 19**

- 9:30–10:45 a.m. **New UU** course in Social Hall
- 9:30 a.m. **Today's Issues** discussion in the RE Building parlor and on [Zoom](#).
- 9:30 a.m. **Choir practice** in the Sanctuary.
- 11:00 a.m. **Sunday Service in the Sanctuary. Lives in Balance**, with Rev. K. Hawbaker. My recent experience with vertigo brought this sharply to my attention. *Lives in Balance* was the name of a collegial group I was part of during a UUMA program on *Deepening the Call*, that was vital and revitalizing for my ministry and personal life. With the energy of this season, may we all utilize resources to find balance, and to nurture our spirits and help heal the world.
- 12:30-1:30 p.m., **Green Sanctuary Committee**, RE Building Parlor and Zoom
- 6 p.m. **Spring Equinox Celebration.** Blessing of the Seeds in the Courtyard, weather permitting.

**Monday, March. 20**

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

Tuesday, March 21 3:30–6:30 p.m., Girl Scouts meet in the social hall

**Wednesday, March 22**

- 12–1 p.m, **Meditation** via [Zoom](#).

**Friday, March 24**

- 9:30–11:30 **Membership Committee**, RE Building Parlor

**Sunday, March 26**

- 9:30–10:45 a.m. **New UU** course in Social Hall
- 9:30 a.m. **Today's Issues** discussion in the RE Building parlor and on [Zoom](#).
- 9:30 a.m. **Choir practice** in the Sanctuary.
- 11:00 a.m. **Sunday Service in the Sanctuary. Launch of the Chalice Lighters Membership Outreach** Annie Warmke, et. al. **Committee Fair during Social Hour.** Find where your gifts & talents fit it so we can all serve and support the FUUSM mission and ministries.
- 11–12:20 p.m. **Marietta Quaker Meeting** in the RE Building Parlor and on Zoom

Tuesday, March 28, 3:30–6:30 p.m., Girl Scouts meet in the social hall

**Friday, March 31**

- 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. **Chalice Lighters Committee.** RE Building Parlor.
- 6–10 p.m. **Service Auction at the Marietta College Gathering Place**



**March Birthdays:**

Kevin Campbell (3/2) Anita Newhart (3/3) Hannah McMichael (3/10) Justin Sheaves (3/10) Al Tuttle (3/16) Galen LeRoy McCarty (3/17) Henry Burton (3/19) Karin Olander (3/26) Wayne Waldeck (3/27) Shannara Stetson (3/31) [Check our birthday file here and let us know if any are missing, including children!](#)

## Great Community Paper Airplane Contest

*Story by Roger Kalter. Photography by Ralph Olander.*

Paper airplanes of all sizes and shapes took flight Sunday, February 26, from the choir loft of the historic 166-year-old First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta to the *oohs* and *ahhs* of onlookers.

The Great Community Paper Airplane Event engaged 29 airplane enthusiasts and an estimated 60-80 volunteers, families and friends. Pilots as young as James, 8 months, and his father, Jimi Braswell, competed with Axelton, 5, and his father, Justin Sheaves, in contests of accuracy, time aloft and distance in the age 0-5 category. Then the flight fever escalated as 13 6-11 year-olds let fly with the energy and enthusiasm of young...if not Wright Brothers, perhaps future astronauts.



Raleigh Trembly, 10, after weeks of working creating a publicity poster, a new bullseye, speaking on WMOA's *Talk of the Town* and WTAP television news, made planes during a workshop in the social hall and created a flight-testing hanger in the nursery with other pilots.

The 12 and older—much older—group managed to compete without fisticuffs, though Axelton reported dad was taking toooo long. Fourteen oldersters participated. Veteran paper airplane contest personality Robin Bozian coordinated a new loft safety crew of Betsy Liller, Linda Lewis, and Bob Lanese. Mike Lang served as TSA, guarding the steps from overly enthusiastic interlopers.



Veteran event coordinator Diane McMichael balanced registration, extensive judge training (lasting well over 10-15 seconds), and ran flight control. Veteran Kim McMichael (Diane and Kim are an A Team) worked with judges Cody Henderhan and Johnathan Brier tracking the hundreds of paper flights.

Event Coordinator Roger G. Kalter proclaimed everyone a winner for participation and all chose prizes emphasizing sustainability, gardening, and fun over plastic trinkets. Brenda Padgett of WMOA helped sponsor prizes. Roger is selling his beloved cats to make up the rest.

The raucous event was recorded by WTAP cameraman Chase Campbell, who grew up in the FUUSM community. He conducted a closing interview with Rileigh and her FUUSM Homecoming buddy Will Ball.

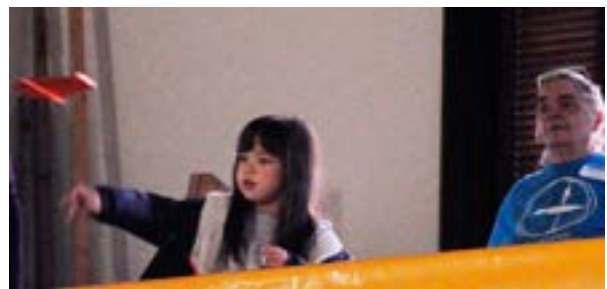
**PAPER AIRPLANE EVENT HELD AT MARIETTA  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH** **wtap**  
11:05 44°

[Click Here to see Video Coverage by WTAP](#)

\$10 in cash donations and food donations were delivered Monday to the Gospel Mission in Harmar.

Veteran plane maker Bill Jacoby made three intricate planes and delivered one of his classic wooden sculptures. It will be featured in the A-MAY-zing Month of Art in the sanctuary. Pilots and others: think Art. You've got nearly two months. You'll never guess what Elin Jones is making.





[Click here to see more of Ralph's Photos.](#)

## Chalice Lighter Membership Grant Project Updates

Last fall Karen Binkley, our fearless FUUSM president, asked me to lead the Chalice Lighter Membership Project grant. Thank you, Karen, for having faith in me that I could lead such an important part of the job to help set the course to take FUUSM into the next 167 years.

While we began meeting in the fall, the project officially begins in March, and there are several ways you can get involved.

**Identified Strategies** : creating the foundation we need to grow our membership.

Everything is on the table. We're exploring all aspects of our buildings and landscape, how we connect with everyone who joins us for worship and events, and perhaps most importantly, how we will meet the needs of the parents and their children who are connected to our FUUSM family in various ways. Recently we visited St. Luke's Lutheran Church to look at how they organize their storage and social spaces.

We plan to address the needs of four major areas by offering a small stipend (hopefully to one of you) to lead the development of:

- a curriculum and programming for our youth
- follow-up with visitors to our services and events
- archival displays to preserve our artifacts and create attractive education displays
- social media communication to promote and share our work with each other and the greater community.

The \$20,000 three year grant requires that we show support by raising a \$5,000 match in each of the three years of the grant. I'm hoping you will see the value of the work we are undertaking and add a small pledge to your annual pledge or donations. Jay and I believe in this work and have already made our pledge.

We'll be looking at how to:

Be more connected to our regional cluster: ways we might be helpful with recorded services, or ways they might be helpful as we look at how we might make our pledges and gifts go further to help our membership grow stronger and increase in numbers.

Stay tuned for more info in the monthly newsletter and regular emails.

Sent by Annie Warmke

## Letter of Concern About the UUA Election

UUA  
24 Farnsworth St.  
Boston, MA 02210-1409

To us the news that there is only one candidate to vote for in the election for president of the Unitarian Universalist Association is troubling. We would like to see more demonstration of our democratic principles from the UUA. There is a legitimate difference of opinion among UUs about whether “anti-racism” and fighting “white supremacist ideology” should be such a central focus of our religious life, but people who raise the question risk being demonized as racists and regarded as incompatible with UUA principles.

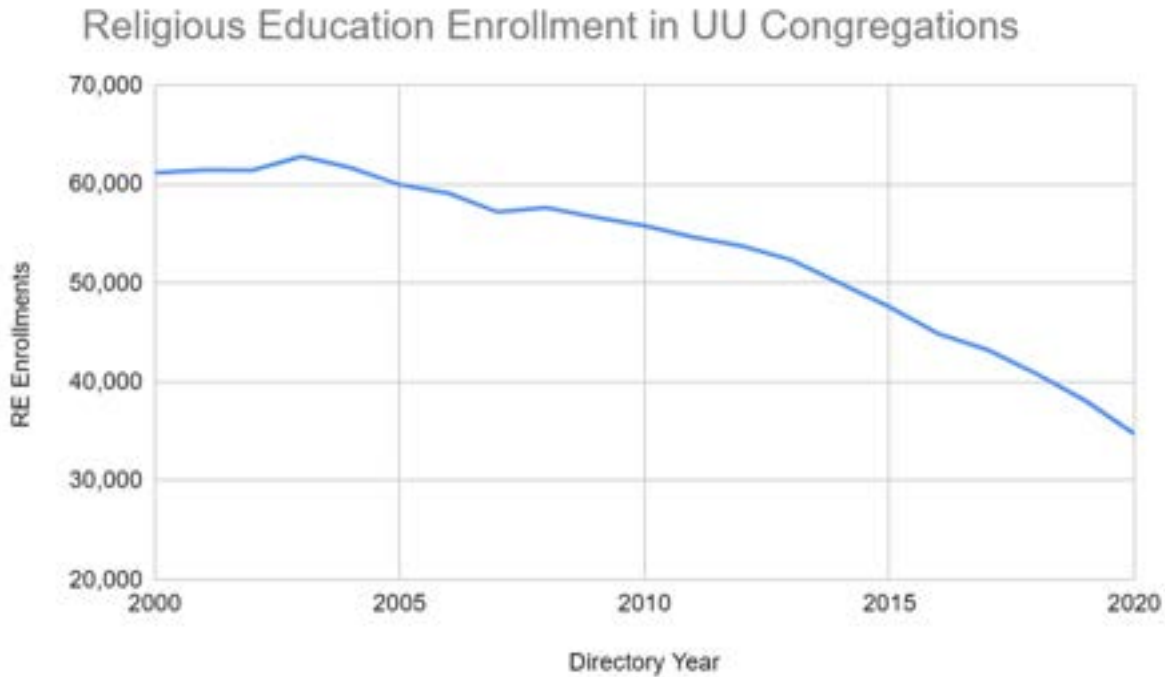
Anti-racism, gender issues, Black Lives Matter positions are uncomfortable and difficult to discuss. However, we would want UUA to encourage honest discussions about these issues without folks feeling shutdown or called racists.

Lest we be labeled as “anti-woke” reactionaries, I will mention that the members of our own congregation in Marietta, Ohio, have been the core participants in the local weekly Black Lives Matter demonstrations in our conservative area during the latter half of 2020. Several years ago we organized a demonstration opposing a visit by the KKK to our town. Many of us in earlier days have shown a commitment to civil rights and continue that commitment into our senior years. We think, therefore, that we have some demonstrated interest in and commitment to civil rights and voting rights.

Our congregation (First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta, Ohio) is the recipient of a Chalice Lighter grant from the Central East Region of UUA. The Major objective of the grant project is to increase the diversity and numbers of our membership. The grant period starts on March 1, but we have already identified some priority program activities, promotional activities, and outside assistance we will seek to achieve our objective over the next three years. Given the demographics of our region (our county has an African American population of only 1.3%), we do not expect to attract any numbers of racial minorities, but we think a reasonable objective is to attract young members with children, LGBTQ+ persons, and a broad range of social-economic levels.

If we are to rebuild and strengthen our denomination, recruiting young families have to be a top priority. The intense focus on racial issues does not seem to be helping; we remain one of the whitest denominations in America. Religious Education enrollments continue to decline. It is unfortunate that the forthcoming UUA election does not provide an opportunity for re-examining the focus of our denomination.





Sincerely yours,  
 George Banziger  
 Ted Goertzel  
 Nancy Luthy

Note: Several versions of this letter were drafted by Ted Goertzel, Nancy Luthy and George Banziger and some of you have already signed earlier versions. If you would like to add your name please email George Banziger at [gbanziger497@gmail.com](mailto:gbanziger497@gmail.com).

### Pledge Drive Reminder

Many thanks to those who have already submitted their completed pledge forms for our 2023-24 budget.

For those who have not, please send them to the FUU:SM office--or simply email your pledge amount to me at [gbanziger497@gmail.com](mailto:gbanziger497@gmail.com) (if you're comfortable doing that). We're coming to the end of our Pledge Drive.

If you've forgotten what you pledged last year and misplaced the individualized pledge form, just give me a call (740-434--3354). *Sent by George Banziger*



Riley and Lela getting ready for the Great Paper Airplane Contest (left).

Photos by Roger Kalter.



### Board Briefs

Al Tuttle and Joe Baker presented 3 proposals from the Buildings & Grounds Committee. The Board approved 1.) Repair of fence railing sandstone support on the Putnam Street side of the Sanctuary (\$5320.00); 2.) Installation of a large-screen projector in the sanctuary (\$2,775 needed to supplement remaining funds previously approved for this project); 3.) Replacement of gas stoves in the kitchen: two 30-inch

slide-in gas ranges with hoods (\$11,835.00). If cost prohibitive, then one stove and hood (\$6570.00). The Board requested the Board of Trust Governors to consider funding these proposals.

1. The Philosophy of Inclusion (drafted in 2017), apparently not formally adopted, was adopted by the Board. This will be sent to the congregation before the Board votes at their March meeting.
2. The revised Bylaws were approved by the Board. These will be sent to the congregation in advance of the Annual Meeting in April. Only changes to this document must be voted on by the Congregation.
3. The revisions to Kat's Letter of Call (Contract) were approved.
4. The "Performance Evaluation of the Minister" was added to the "Performance Evaluation Process" in Policies & Procedures. This will also be sent to the Congregation.
5. Ted's recommendations for a revised "Treasurer & Finance Team Procedure" were approved.
6. The Board of Trustees will host a Circle Supper on April 8th. Beth Lepore will manage.
7. Worship & Music suggested April 23rd for our Annual Congregational Meeting. The Board approved.

Board Briefs by Nancy Luthy

## **Rev. Kat's Korner**

## *Making Plans Before Planting*

When Spring rolls around and we work the fertile ground

Our hands touch the earth for a better world to come.  
Seed time, dream time, everything is new,  
We're young and green and growing when planting's what we do.

*Dancing in the Circle*, by Jennifer Armstrong

For a couple of months now, gardeners have been poring over seed catalogs, sorting their seeds from last year, and making plans for what and where they will plant. This example applies mainly to the household gardeners supplementing their diet with fresh vegetables. Commercial farming must take a longer view of prices, climate change and soil productivity. Health and sustainability go hand in hand in many ways.



In any healthy system we generate ideas, consider and converse about the investment and implications, make decisions, allocate resources and line up volunteers to support programs that move us further on in our mission. We see that the world is changing, and it feels urgent to act, but also to act for the benefit of all.

Our FUUSM Mission is to nurture a diverse community ([a Beloved Community](#)) devoted to spiritual growth and freedom of thought ([and working with justice and compassion](#)), for the benefit of all.

The words on the page are just the beginning, not the last word. They speak of our aims and intentions, but they are not the goal, but rather a guide for our faithful action.

One of the first things UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray did was to create a clear mission statement for the UUA, with three foci: to equip congregations for vital ministries; to support and train lay and professional leaders; and to advance Unitarian Universalist values in the world. [*UU World* magazine]

FUUSM is embarking on a new chapter and WE can make the difference. What we nurture will grow. The seeds will sprout and flourish, and the fruit will sustain future life.

A clear mission, a realistic budget, enthusiastic pledging and participation is all we need.

Let us continue to make plans and test ideas, gathering feedback and data so that we may be good stewards to do wise planting and feed the spiritual growth of our congregation and the wider world.

Bright Blessings, your minister  
Rev. Kathryn E. Hawbaker

## *Spring for Change: a Season of Sacred Activism*



This is an invitation to the Unitarian Universalist faith community to embody the transformational, regenerative power of Spring through sacred activism for Earth and all our relations.

2023 Spring for Change will have opportunities to be galvanized by a **March 19th concert in honor of World Water Day**, watch and share an **Earth Day worship service**, and connect through **Biodiversity Sunday** (May 22). From workshops for all ages to special programming for the UU Young Adults for Climate Justice, we're excited to connect with you. *From the [U.U. Ministry For Earth](#)*

## Building and Grounds Priorities

The Building and Grounds Committee is continuously working to responsibly maintain our beautiful and historic 166-year-old church building and 140 year old Religious Education building. The job is never done. As Rosanna Dana used to say on *Saturday Night Live*, “If it’s not one thing, it’s another.” But it’s always something.

It takes a village to maintain our beautiful facilities. Some of our members have provided and still provide incredible TLC to our church for more than 40 years. And it’s always something.

### ***Issues requiring attention include:***

- Leaf and vegetation collection into cans for transport to Greenleaf for composting. Containers are provided. Rakes in RE basement.
- Sidewalk clearing of sweetgum balls and limbs. Always and especially prior to services and public events.
- Brushing RE exterior siding where massive numbers of insects have been drawn into webs after Installation of safety lighting. Or sponsor building pressure washing.
- Rake vegetative debris from beneath massive evergreens so members and friends—especially the young we’re attempting to attract—may use and enjoy the courtyard suburbs. Place debris in containers for composting.
- In addition to routine repairs and maintenance, please read the following CLUTTER ALERT.
  - As the continuous efforts to declutter our facilities, be mindful of creating trip hazards and other safety issues. Floors and open areas are not for storage.
  - If you bring items into the church, please take them home when events ends. Please check with a buildings and grounds member before deciding some nearly perfect item is no longer needed in your home before bringing it into church to “donate” it.
  - We all want our beautiful and historic facilities to be WELCOMING. They also must be safe. Please help eliminate trip hazards by removing, recycling or disposing of broken, obsolete or inappropriate stuff.
  - Recycling bins are provided in the kitchen under the serving tables. The large recycling container is next to the trash container on the far side of RE building.

Any questions or for assistance moving heavy items, please contact Roger G. Kalter. It takes a church village.