



Heirloom

Monthly newsletter for members and friends of Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church

April 2024

Worship Dates and Information

For Sunday morning worship, on Sunday at 10:30 a.m., join us in the sanctuary at 2710 Newtown Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45244, or click the Zoom link that will appear in the service description at <https://huuc.net/>. The worship service and its attendees may be video recorded and appear later on various media.

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### “Look to This Day, for It Is Life”



**Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024, 10:30 a.m.**

*Rev. Bill Gupton leads this service.*

As morning breaks on Easter Sunday, we look to a new day filled with new promise. We honor our history and our traditions, while grounding ourselves powerfully in the present moment – and in this one, beautiful day we have together. Our Universalist heritage teaches us that “all are saved,” that the love of God and the Universe includes and embraces everyone, eternally (“no exceptions”). Join us

this Easter Sunday as we ponder the mystery and wonder of this day – of each day – and of this life we share. Our Choir will sing, our spirits will be lifted, and we might even see an Easter egg or two. Fancy Easter hats optional but welcomed!

Image Source: <http://tinyurl.com/4dszkuyj>

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“What is a Soul, Anyway?”



Sunday, April 7, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

This service is led by Bob Lamb with Jen Ciolino.

Last year, Bob Lamb binged all seven seasons of “Buffy the Vampire Slayer.” (I don’t know why; ask him.) Buffy’s romantic relationship with a couple of vampires prompted Bob to want to explore the nature of this thing we call a “soul.” Come join Bob and his fellow explorer, Jen Ciolino, as they ponder what a soul actually is.

Bob claims that, “Bob and Jen are both members of the Heritage Congregation who like to talk and they aren’t vampires.”

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## “Eclipsed”



Sunday, April 14, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

***Rev. Bill Gupton and friends lead this service.***

This week, a total solar eclipse passed within miles of Heritage Church. Our Senior Minister and his family traveled to Brown County (Indiana) for the experience. What was your eclipse experience like? Let’s share our stories, and explore the significance (in a scientific age, as well as in earlier cultures) of such a remarkable event. Let there be darkness! Let there be light!

Image source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/gsf/35909952653>

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“Acknowledging Our Past, Leaning into Our Future”



Sunday, April 21, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

This service is lead by Rev. Bill Gupton and friends.

We live on sacred ground. We gather on lands once cared for by indigenous peoples. What is our cultural and congregational responsibility – to them, to the earth, to one another, to future generations? This morning we will acknowledge our intent to own those responsibilities, to repair relationships, and to begin a new and exciting chapter in our history by unveiling a land

acknowledgement crafted by church members and friends and approved by our Board of Trustees as an official statement of Heritage Church.

Join us as we celebrate Earth Day and reflect on our place in the history of this land, and this planet.

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/rf7veu5f>

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## Flower Communion



**Sunday April 28, 2024, 10:30 p.m.**

***Rev. Bill Gupton leads this service.***

The Flower Communion ritual is a cherished annual tradition at Heritage Church, featuring stories from our shared past and the beauty of flowers that are shared with one another. In this celebration of Spring, we each (young and old alike) come to

church with a flower, create a lovely bouquet, and leave the sanctuary with a flower that someone else has given us. We hear stories from our past, thrill to uplifting music from our Choir, and bless one another with a gift of beauty. Please bring a fresh flower to share.

Image source: <http://tinyurl.com/539esy5s>

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“Deeper than the Skin”



Sunday, May 5, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

An All-Cincinnati UU Worship Service held at First Unitarian Church, 536 Linton St. Cincinnati, OH 45219

This service is lead by the Performance of Reggie Harris and Greg Greenway.

Join other Unitarian Universalists from all four congregations in the city for a very special Cincinnati-wide Sunday morning worship service led by and featuring Reggie Harris and Greg Greenway, national touring artists (and UUs). Joined by our own Rev. Bill Gupton, along with Revs. Alex Riegel and Jenn Gracen of, respectively, First Unitarian and St. John’s, Reggie and Greg will share powerful and poignant personal stories and songs about their interracial friendship that will touch your heart and open your mind to new possibilities of connection and healing. They describe their lives as “two separate narratives forged into one powerful friendship aimed at finding common ground – and helping others do the same.”

This service is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Council of Greater Cincinnati.

Note there will NOT be a service at Heritage Church this morning.

Image: Reggie Harris and Greg Greenway.

Recent Worship Services

To watch videos of some recent worship services, go to <https://huuc.net/worship-videos/>.

Columns and Essays

On the Path



by Rev. Bill Gupton

Pledge season is in full swing at Heritage. Have you made your commitment to support HUUC in the coming church/fiscal year (beginning July 1)? Each year, members and friends of Heritage Church are asked to support our congregation and its work by “pledging” an amount that works for their household. Collectively, we share – as we say each Sunday during our Outreach Offering – *from our abundance*, to build the operating budget that will keep Heritage active and thriving during 2024-25.

We know that the upcoming church year will be a challenging one – if for no other reason than what is going on in our nation and our world. HUUC is a *sanctuary*, in every sense of the word, in these difficult times – which is why Jennifer and I want to share in the *stewardship* of this special community. Now more than ever, you and I (and folks we haven’t even met yet) need Heritage Church. Our long-serving, hard-working Stewardship Chair, Reid Hester, has asked for an increase in our giving in the coming year, and my family is honored to be able to increase our pledge by 16% for 2024-25. Won’t you join us?

If you missed our annual Stewardship Sunday service this year, you missed out on some great music, moving and heartfelt testimonials, and more. You can watch that service here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCk8v_y3pfi for some inspiration. Then go online at <https://huuc.net/stewardship/> for the easiest pledging experience you’ve ever had!

And remember – being part of a Unitarian Universalist church means that:

- (1) there aren’t any “tithes” or membership fees
- (2) we don’t tell you how much you have to give (but we sure hope you’ll give as generously as you possibly can)
- (3) our budget – including our staff salaries and program funds – are dependent on *your* contributions, not on some higher ecclesiastical authority, because we are an autonomous and independent congregation
- (4) *you participate in determining our funding priorities through the budget-building and budget-adopting process.*

Which means that each and every member of Heritage Church should plan to attend and participate at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 2, beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the sanctuary (and on Zoom). Mark your calendars now, be part of the democratic process, and support Heritage Church!

In the Love that is the Spirit of this church – thank you.

Blessings,
Rev. Bill

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## The President's Corner



### An Ode to the Ones who Sing Our Special Songs

*by Jaime Castle*

I knew that the next thing that I would write about would be my cat and I have been struggling with getting through writing about him. Grief is a process and storytelling helps, I think, in helping us to process. So, this is an ode to my cat Enzo, and this is an ode to any special animal that has ever captured your heart as well. May you remember the joy and the love!

It's springtime officially now and I think about the days that are finally nice enough when you can open wide the windows. I am longing for that fresh crisp air and the familiar birdsongs entering my home as my little white cat jumps up to the window to see what activity he will find at the birdfeeders just outside. Entering spring, we leave behind the very cold days, the ones when you would find him sprawled out in front of the lit-up fireplace, blankets laid out for him just so, to lay upon, eyes closed, smiling. No matter the season, any sunny day finds Enzo basking in the morning light pouring through the wide midcentury front window of our home.

Dinner preparation time is when Enzo is lying on his back with his front paws curled up watching from the middle of the kitchen floor as dinner is being made. Watching me. We have songs that we sing together, he sings along with his sweet meows. I ask him in song who is the fluffiest boy in town, and he answers MEOW! We have whole conversations. I am not allowed to close doors in my house because he needs to have access to me and if I forget, he will tell me loudly about his disapproval. He is my little shadow, just happy to be next to me while I work or rest. He sleeps in the crook of my right arm or sometimes on my pillow, his purrs lull me to sleep.

I had a white cat when I was a child, his name was Sugar, and he was just as sweet. He was the inspiration when I was looking to get a kitten, almost twelve years ago when I answered an ad on Craigslist for kittens. Enzo was a little white runt kitten and we also brought home his orange tabby brother that we named Oscar. The vet thought Oscar was a week older than Enzo due to his size. But little Enzo had the biggest personality for sure.

Through the years, through raising kids, through politics, through a pandemic, Enzo has always been there for me. Months back, I caught a moment. It was late and I was holding him like a baby, and he was letting

me rub his soft belly. He really was the fluffiest boy in town! I thought to myself then: it doesn't get better than this. The simple love from an animal bonded with you is so special and anyone who has lost that knows that you need to cherish the time that you have. The price that we pay to love something mortal is grief.

To grieve a person lost is easy for others to understand but to grieve an animal can be so underestimated. There is trauma involved and there is depression. I leave doors open because of habit and I feel his absence as I look for him in all of his usual places.

I lost Enzo the day after Christmas. He had been sick, but I thought that he would get better. I took him into the vet thinking that he would come home better, but an abdominal mass was found, he was in pain, and he would not get better. To make the hard decision to euthanize an animal is traumatic yet I know also compassionate. I knew that I had to be there for him at the end, but I cannot get the moments out of my mind.

I know many of us have felt love and grief for our animals. There's something so unique and unconditional and pure and we know in our hearts that we only get them for so long and it's never long enough. I want you to know that I see and understand your loss too if you are one that has been fortunate to have loved and lost. Perhaps we should design a special service for them, an All Souls of sorts for these special souls?

I have a little altar at home now with his photo and I will plant a garden in the corner of the yard where he is buried. In time I will be able to open my heart again, just as I open the windows in the spring, desperate for fresh air and for sweet songs.

Image source: Jaime Castle

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We Create Our Future Together



HUUC Stewardship 2024-2025

It is spring, and in this season for new beginnings we are also entering our pledge campaign. Our pledge drive is a yearly opportunity to reaffirm our support for our church community and to look to the future that we would like to create together. That future includes a robust investment in our Religious Education (RE) programming for all of the lifelong learners in our community, young and old. In addition to some targeted new RE investments, the HUUC Board of Trustees has created a proposed budget that aims to meet the needs of the congregation in the new church year with fairly compensated staff and the resources to keep everything in the church running and in good repair in an inflationary environment.

2024-2025 Budget Priorities

Our single biggest expense, as is true with nearly any organization, is our **amazing staff**. Our Personnel Committee and Committee on Ministry, working with UUA salary guideline minimums for our region and

church size, have recommended fair share salary increases that amount to an average of 5% across all positions, including both ordained and non-ordained staff. We've done a fair amount of catching up in past budget years to get our staff salaries in line with UUA guidelines, so this year's proposal for an average of 5% across all staff is not as steep as the request has been in prior budget years.

While modest in terms of our overall budget, we do have a goal of increasing our investment in our **Religious Education (RE) program**. We have a new budget line of \$1,000 for the revival of our participation in the city-wide UU OWL (Our Whole Lives) lifespan sexuality education program. For the rest of our RE programming we are requesting a 5% increase for each budget line: our Children's RE Program, our Youth Program, and our Adult Faith Development program.

One last new investment that we are proposing for next church year also involves an enrichment program for our children, a musical one. We are proposing hiring a **Children's Music Director** on a contract basis to provide music education and enrichment during RE time on Sunday mornings. This contract position is budgeted at \$2,850.

What do all of these recommendations mean for your pledge? We are proposing keeping our rental and fund raising goals flat with last year, so that means we'll need to support our increased budget proposals solely with our pledging. In order to support our overall budget increase of 6%, we'll need to **increase pledges by 12%**. If we hit this percentage goal, we will achieve **\$247,000 in pledges** for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

The need is clearly there, and there is no question that our congregation and its leadership support all of the services that we receive as a result of the planned expenditures in our proposed budget.

What if I am new to pledging at Heritage? Where do I start? The Fair Share Contribution Guide at <https://tinyurl.com/4b353mkf> is a great way to determine an appropriate level of giving based on you and your family's financial situation and your connection to HUUC. Based on the Fair Share Guide a pledging member or friend with an income of \$80,000 a year (accounting for large and unusual anticipated expenses like medical expenses, educational expenses, etc. as adjustments to income), would pledge \$195 per month at the Supporter level (the baseline level for giving), or \$2,340 per year (3% per of income). That level of pledging is just above our average pledge at Heritage of \$2,048 per year.

Here a few statistics on pledges at HUUC:

We currently have 12 pledges for the 2023-2024 church year that are \$5,000 or above. These pledges account for just under 40% of our total pledged income.

We have 29 pledges in the \$2,000 to \$5,000 range, accounting for 41% of our total pledged income.

We have 51 pledges under \$2,000 per year, accounting for 19% of our total pledged income.

It's going to take an average pledge of about \$2,470 per month from about 100 pledging members and friends (including members and friends who are new to our congregation) to fully fund our proposed budget for the 2024-2025 church year. The reality is that we will receive pledges well above and well below that average monthly pledge amount, as we do every year. Every pledge counts, no matter what its amount.

We only ask that you please consider pledging an amount that reflects a serious commitment to the place you have chosen as your spiritual home — not simply making a donation to yet another charity. Whatever amount you lovingly choose, we hope you will **give until it feels good**.

And now, it's time to submit your pledge. The pledge form is on the HUUC website at <https://huuc.net/stewardship/>. Your pledge is secure and private.

Any questions? Contact Reid Hester at:
huucpledge@gmail.com

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## Does UU Environmentalism Still Matter?



### Article II and Amendment 52 – An Unexpected Change

*by Rebecca Pace*

The wording of the final, proposed Article II, up for vote at the June 2024 General Assembly (GA), contains an unexpected change. The proposed new Value of Interdependence, positioned to swap for the current Seventh Principle regarding environmentalism doesn't seem to serve the same purpose. The new value seems to change the focus to managing harmful human interrelationships, rather than protecting the earth and all beings.

Alert delegates recognized this change in direction and proposed Amendment 52 at the 2023 GA to insure that the Interdependence Value focused strictly on the environment. Amendment 52 passed by a vote of 78.4% of the delegates.<sup>1</sup> However, during the ensuing months, as I see it, the Article II Study Commission chose to ignore the vote of the delegates and doubled-down on their path to remove or lessen environmentalism as a value.

So what's up with all this? Similar to many of the new Article II Values that pull phrases from the current set of UU Principles, the proposed Interdependence Value incorporates some of the wording of our Seventh Principle. The Seventh Principle, as we commonly understand it, promotes respect for the earth and natural world. It reads as follows: ***“Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.”***<sup>2</sup> However, the new Interdependence Value's focus seems to point to interdependence of humans with each other, not strictly with the environment. The emphasis appears to be on the repair of harmful interpersonal relationships.

The original Interdependence Value in the proposed Article II voted on at GA 2023 read as follows:

***“Interdependence. We honor the interdependent web of all existence. We covenant to cherish Earth and all beings by creating and nurturing relationships of care and respect. With humility and reverence, we acknowledge our place in the great web of life, and we work to repair harm and damaged relationships.”***<sup>3</sup>



Amendment 52 approved at GA 2023 indicated that this value statement should read as follows:

***“Interdependence. We honor the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. With humility and reverence, we covenant to protect Earth and all beings from exploitation, creating and nurturing sustainable relationships of repair, mutuality and justice.”<sup>4</sup>***

Note that the clause, “. . . we work to repair harm and damaged relationships.” at the end of the original Interdependence Value has been removed in the amendment. However, the finalized Article II proposal, published in October 2023, appeared as follows.

***“Interdependence.***

***We honor the interdependent web of all existence. With reverence for the great web of life and with humility, we acknowledge our place in it.***

***We covenant to protect Earth and all beings from exploitation. We will create and nurture sustainable relationships of care and respect, mutuality and justice. We will work to repair harm and damaged relationships.”<sup>5</sup>***

The finalized proposed Article II still contains a form of the statement, “We work to repair harm and damaged relationships.” that the amendment removed.

How did this happen? The Article II Study Commission has the authority to wordsmith the approved amendment, and they did that in the first line. Humility and reverence were moved from the second part of the Value statement to the first.

However, wordsmithing should not mean ignoring the vote of the delegates. In my estimate, that is exactly what the Commission has done by retaining the last sentence of the Interdependence Value – they ignored the mandate of the approved Amendment 52.

Perhaps the Commission questioned whether the voters really intended to remove that clause from the Interdependence Value, thereby making the Value focus solely on environmentalism. If there was a misunderstanding by the Commission or an error regarding the intention of the vote at the 2023 GA, there were remedies.

The Board could have declined acceptance of the Commission’s version of the final Article II proposal. The Board could have directed the Commission to incorporate into the final proposal what I feel is the objective of the entire Amendment 52 – to eliminate the contested clause/sentence. This action would have addressed any misunderstanding by the Commission.

As a next step option, if it was felt that the problem lay in the intentions of the amendment vote and in accordance with UUA Bylaws Section 15.2(a)<sup>6</sup>, the Board could have proposed a new amendment for a vote at the 2024 GA. This proposal would have added the contested clause/sentence back into the modified final Article II proposal that, in accordance with Amendment 52, did not contain the clause/sentence.

The Board did not take either of these actions. Instead, the Board chose to accept the Commission’s final proposal, which, in my view, violated Amendment 52’s directive. From my perspective, instead of following the desires of the majority, the Article II Study Commission and UUA Board chose to ignore the voters and purposely retained the contested clause.

I believe that the proposed, new Value of Interdependence, positioned to swap for the current Seventh Principle on environmentalism, intentionally serves a different purpose than that prescribed in the current Seventh Principle of our faith. In my opinion, the delegates clearly voted to retain the singular emphasis on environmentalism in this value. However, as I see it, the Article II Study Commission and UUA Board appear to have intentionally ignored the voters’ desire to institute Amendment 52. I believe that the proposed Interdependence Value diminishes the value of environmentalism while, in its place, raising the role of managing harmful interpersonal relationships. In my judgment, the Commission’s and Board’s actions present reasons for thinking twice about how to vote on the latest Article II proposal at the 2024 GA.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.uua.org/files/2023-06/Results%20-%202023%20General%20Session%20III.pdf>, page 2.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.uua.org/beliefs/what-we-believe/principles>

<sup>3</sup> <https://discuss.uua.org/t/amendment-52-to-article-ii-proposed-by-john-millspaugh/1102>

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.uua.org/files/2023-10/a2\\_final\\_line\\_num\\_10312023.pdf](https://www.uua.org/files/2023-10/a2_final_line_num_10312023.pdf), page 2.

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.uua.org/files/2022-10/uua\\_bylaws\\_10312022.pdf](https://www.uua.org/files/2022-10/uua_bylaws_10312022.pdf), page 22.

## Announcements

### A Very Special Musical Performance



**Saturday and Sunday, May 4th and 5th, 2024, offsite.**

**Deeper than the Skin: A Musical Presentation on Race**

***Performance by Reggie Harris and Greg Greenway***

Two friends, one Black, one white, musicians, storytellers, students of history, and world travelers born three days apart. Two separate narratives forged into one powerful friendship

aimed at finding common ground and helping others to do the same.

Come experience singing and listening, of experiencing a connection so deep that it makes you laugh, smile, cry, and reconsider what you know about our history. It’s an invitation to open your heart and mind to a story of shared humanity that resonates with your own.

Don’t miss this free, very special musical performance, followed by a Q&A session with the musicians, on Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. at St. John’s UU Church, 320 Resor Ave. in Clifton, OH 45220. Admission is free.

Reggie and Greg will also be leading a citywide UU worship service the following morning, Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. at First Unitarian Church, 536 Linton St. Cincinnati, OH 45219. The service is also available via Zoom link.

This special weekend is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Council of Greater Cincinnati. (If you have questions, please speak with Heritage's UU Council representatives, Rae Jane Araujo, Ann Jarboe, and Bob Lamb.)

Image: Reggie Harris and Greg Greenway.

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HUUC Town Hall Meeting



May 19, 2024, following the morning service.

The Heritage UU Church Board of Trustees will host a Town Hall meeting following the service on Sunday, May 19, 2024. We expect the discussion to begin sometime between 11:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. We will continue in-person from the sanctuary or on the Zoom service link after a brief break when the service ends.

We will be giving updated reports from the board, fundraising, lifespan faith development (formally RE), and stewardship. This meeting will give people the opportunity to discuss the proposed budget as we see how the pledge drive numbers are landing in terms of our financial goal number.

We hope that a large group can join the meeting. If you have questions, contact Jaime Castle, HUUC Board President, at:

HUUCBoardPresident@gmail.com

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/5bcd2w74>

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## Announcing the Annual Meeting



**June 2, 2024, 8:30 – 10:15 a.m.**

Heritage Church members are encouraged to attend and participate in our annual congregational meeting on Sunday morning, June 2, 2024 starting at 8:30 a.m. before the worship service. We will provide the option for participation either in-person within the sanctuary or via Zoom. We will vote on representatives to our Board of Trustees, the Cincinnati UU

Council, and other leadership teams and groups. We will also adopt our operating budget for 2024-25. The highlight will be honoring those who have given outstanding service to our community.

In accordance with our constitution, a quorum is required to conduct our annual meeting. We need you! Members, the favor of your presence is requested – June 2, 2024, from 8:30 to 10:15 a.m., at Heritage UU Church or via Zoom.

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/3yfczbt6>

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New Blue Box for Soles 4 Souls



Do you typically rush through the back hallway outside the family lounge, formerly called the nursery, and past the coat racks? Maybe you haven't noticed the new collection box, tucked discretely in the corner intended for the on-going drive to collect gently used shoes for persons in need – a campaign known as Soles 4 Souls.

Most donations go to the national organization called Soles 4 Souls. That organization takes any shoes, in any condition, and sends them to those people in need all around the globe. For more information on the organization, check out Soles 4 Souls at www.soles4souls.org.

Sometimes, donated shoes are in such good shape that the HUUC organizer, Joann Meyer, can donate them to our local Inter Parish Ministry (IPM). For more information on IPM see <https://www.ipmfoodpantry.org/>.

So, instead of throwing away unwanted or old shoes, please bring them to church. Keep them out of a landfill. Put them in the new, blue box. We can make a difference!

For more information, contact Joann Meyer at:
ldyhkw37@gmail.com

Image source: Joann Meyer

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## Pill Bottle Recycling



It is time to end the pill bottle recycling project at Heritage UU Church. Mathew 25 Ministries no longer accepts pill bottles for recycling and there are no instructions for preparing bottles for reuse that I could find on their website.

We have not collected batteries or CFL lights for recycling for years now. Some batteries such as lithium batteries can be taken to Batteries Plus.

Lowes recycling center accepts plastic bags, CFL bulbs, rechargeable batteries, and cell phones. Lowes garden center accepts plastic planter pots for recycling.

Perhaps there is an opportunity for someone to start a recycling effort that could bring sorted things to the Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub. I noticed among the pictures on their website that they collect pill bottles.

Yours in the spirit of this church, Robin Wickett.

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Calling all Heritage Environmentalists!



Saturday Stream Snapshot is back and needs your help!

Two of our HUUC members/friends, Anne Lyon and Alison Lang-Hickey, are leading the charge to re-start the Saturday Stream Snapshot (SSS), a water quality monitoring program for the Lower Little Miami River Watershed. Anne Lyon founded the SSS in 2003 and is mentoring the new team as it re-starts. *Volunteers are needed* to collect stream samples throughout the watershed, or assist in the lab, on the second Saturday of each month starting March 9, 2024. You can select which dates you'd like to help and bring a friend, so this an easy, fun, and rewarding way to help

protect the river that many of us love.

Click here for more information: <http://tinyurl.com/37zxjy8t>

Sign up here: <http://tinyurl.com/2uwdv237>

Interested in stream sampling? Sign up for the part of town/section of the river you prefer. Then come to the training session February 27, 2024, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Izaak Walton League's lodge (544 Branch Hill-Loveland Rd) to get your supplies and specific sampling site/meeting place.

(Note: even if you can't join the February 27 or March 9 events, **please still sign up**. We'll reach out later with details for future sampling dates April 13, 2024, May 11, 2024, June 8, 2024, and beyond.)

Want to help out as a lab volunteer? This is great experience and no advance training is needed – we'll show you the ropes in the lab on the date you select. (March 9, 2024, April 13, 2024, or June 8, 2024 are available for sign ups now).

Any questions? Please email Alison Lang-Hickey at: Volunteer@SaturdayStreamSnapshot.org

Photo Caption: Alison Lang-Hickey and Anne Lyon with volunteer flyer

Image Source: Alison Lang-Hickey

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## Sign Up to Bring Snacks



Would you like to sign up to bring snacks for our congregation to enjoy after Sunday worship on one or more Sundays during our "coffee and conversation" time in the great hall? Sign up here: <http://tinyurl.com/2s3v2tnd>

Image source: <http://tinyurl.com/3snvce3v>

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Seeking Stitchers/Sewers and Seats (Rocking Chairs, Specifically!)



You might have noticed a few space upgrades in process around the church, especially in the family lounge, formerly known as the nursery. Last year we did a small-needs assessment of our young families to find ways to serve them better. One decision to come out of that process was to rework the space to allow for parents and "littles" to share space while providing access to the worship service. The family lounge was born, technology was purchased, and we started work on a gorgeous mural. Next time you are at church, visit the new family lounge and see the progress of the mural.

Now, we need your help with a second project aimed at making our space more welcoming and functional for young families. We will be adding a row of rocking chairs to our sanctuary space and are looking for two kinds of help.

First, we are in need of rocking chairs. We have the first rocking chair, but would love to have six more. Do you have a rocking chair in good working order (without a footrest) that you would be willing to donate to church?

Second, many of these rocking chairs will need new seat cushions, so we are looking for people who sew who would be willing to do a bit of stitching once fabrics are selected.

If you can help in either or both of these capacities, please email Laci at: DLFDhuuc@gmail.com.

Image source: <http://tinyurl.com/4ceba6uk>

Ministries

“Learning to Liberate” – A Three-Part Anti-oppression Series



Tuesday, March 19, Wednesday April 10, and Wednesday May 8, 2024, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Off-Site

GAPP and ACRU present a three-part anti-oppression series by the YWCA at Clough United Methodist Church, 2010 Clough Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45255. The sessions run from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19, Wednesday, April 10, and Wednesday,

May 8, 2024. The series is facilitated by Taylor Curtis, YWCA Greater Cincinnati Director of Racial Justice and Equity.

In this series of three monthly workshops Taylor Curtis, YWCA Greater Cincinnati Director of Racial Justice and Equity, will guide participants in the following topics.

Session 1 – Tuesday, March 19: Cultural Competence. This session builds awareness of cultural humility and respect through analyzing diversity, equity, inclusion, and how social responsibility impacts us at personal and institutional levels.

Session 2 – Wednesday, April 10: Developing an Antiracist Identity. This session involves thoughtful reflection around our racial identity and how racism impacts us at personal, interpersonal, institutional, and systemic levels.

Session 3 – Wednesday, May 8: Racial Discrimination. In this session, participants gain tools to address racial discrimination from individual and systemic lenses.

This remarkable opportunity brings the YWCA Greater Cincinnati’s commitment to eliminating racism right into our Anderson Township community for three monthly workshops conveniently located at Clough United Methodist Church at the intersection of Clough Pike and Wolfangel Rd.

GAPP and ACRU are pleased to welcome back Taylor Curtis for this extended workshop series following her dynamic facilitation during a community conversation in 2023. Taylor Curtis is exceptionally skilled in teaching and providing instruction and facilitation in psychology, social justice, equity (especially in Black Studies) and anti-racism. She is a trusted influencer with a passion for grassroots leadership, mission-driven organizations, and social justice movements.

Registration is required. Attendance is free but space is limited. Please register separately for each date you plan to attend. To register or for additional information about each session, click on:

<https://learn2liberate.eventbrite.com>

Image source: <http://tinyurl.com/3r39e4cp>

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## Social Justice Collaborative Meeting



**Sunday, April 28, 2024 following the Morning Service**

After the worship service and getting a refreshment, come join us in the Heritage Room on Sunday April 28, 2024 for the Social Justice Collaborative meeting. Whether your passion is racial justice, indigenous peoples, housing and homelessness, food security, a just economic community, democracy that is fair for

all, or something else – or if you just want to come to learn – you are welcome here. Feel free to bring a snack or brown bag lunch.

If you have questions, please contact Rae Jane Araujo at:

[RaeJane.Araujo@gmail.com](mailto:RaeJane.Araujo@gmail.com)

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/292kt3vf>

## Community Events

### Dining for Dollars Event



**April 13, 2024, 6 p.m., Location Off-Site**

Ellie and Bob Lamb invite you to a dinner in their home near Heritage Church, featuring salmon, corn pudding, roast vegetables and more, with cheesecake for dessert. The registration fee is \$30/person. Directions to the event will follow the registration confirmation or contact the Lambs. Their contact information is found in the church's directory, in the members' area of <https://HUUC.net>.

There is room for eight guests. You may pay online via credit card, at <https://huuc.breezechms.com/form/dca8d2283> or you may ensure that all of your \$30 registration fee goes to the church (without a service charge going to breeze) by dropping off a check at the office – leave the check on Martha's desk. Use the registration website's dropdown arrow to find alternative payment options. To ensure there is enough room at the table, please complete a separate registration form for each person attending.

Image Source: <http://tinyurl.com/pvznk7sx>

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Second Sunday Potluck Secrets



April 14, 2024 Luncheon

First in a Series by the Heirloom Editor

A distraught reader of the *Heirloom* wrote the following to me, the editor – “It is the second Sunday potluck lunch time again, but I am cooking-challenged! I can't keep up with those culinary goddesses and gods who populate our monthly feast with diverse delights, making it my best meal of the month. What can I do?”

Here's one of my many popular tricks to participate in the potluck offerings but not inflict on others any gastric distress as a result. Buy a bag of Clementine oranges, peel them, separate the sections, and bring them to church in a large zip-lock bag. That's my kind of “cooking.” People hesitate to place a whole Clementine on their plate, but they will take sections. Not only will you please the masses, but your hands will smell great for the rest of the day. If, by chance, any segments remain after the feast, you can take them home in the zip-lock bag, ready for the fridge.

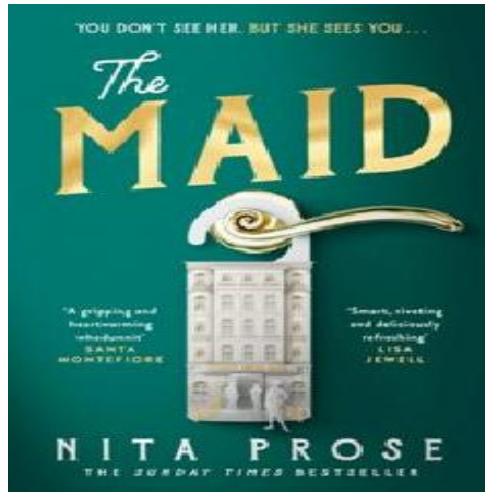
No time for peeling? Don't be shy, come to our table anyways – there is always more than enough. Join the friendly gathering right after worship services, Sunday April 14, 2024 in the great hall.

~ Your cooking-challenged *Heirloom* editor, Barb Barnes

Image Source: <http://tinyurl.com/bcw76nsx>

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## Whodunit Time for the BWB



**Wednesday, April 17, 2024**  
**7 – 9 p.m. in the Heritage Room**

Described as “A murder mystery with tremendous heart.” by author Lisa Jewell, the selection for the April 17, 2024 meeting of the Heritage Women’s Book Club (affectionately known as the Babes with Books or BWB) is the NY Times best seller *The Maid* by Nita Prose. Come join us from 7 – 9 p.m. in the Heritage Room to discuss this whodunit.

The current selections for BWB upcoming meetings are as follows:

May 22 – *Those We Thought We Knew*, by David Joy  
June 19 – *Enchantment*, by Katherine May

July 17 – *What Your Are Looking For is in the Library*, by Michiko Aoyama

August 21 – *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*, by Taylor Jenkins Reid (Location TBD)

September 18 – *Master Slave Husband Wife*, by Ilyon Woo

October 16 – *The Authenticity Project*, by Clare Pooley

All BWB meetings run from 7 – 9 pm in the Heritage Room, unless otherwise announced.

All women (be they members, or friends) are always invited to any BWB meeting – whether they have read the book or not. Unless otherwise announced, the meeting’s book selection is available on hold for the Heritage Book Club at the Anderson Township branch of the Hamilton County library approximately a month in advance.

For inclusion in the BWB Google group emails, contact the Heritage office at:  
[HUUCOffice@yahoo.com](mailto:HUUCOffice@yahoo.com)

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SherryOke at Heritage UU Church



It’s Party Time! You don’t want to miss the fun

Saturday, April 20, 2024, 7 – 10 p.m. in the Great Hall

What’s SherryOke? Sherry McCamley will sing, play piano, and accompany *you* on whatever song you want to sing! Choose music from her

big boxes of songbooks or bring your own. If you have a special request, email Sherry at:
sherrymccamley@gmail.com

She'll make sure she brings the music for you.

Come to sing, sing along, or just enjoy the evening with friends! There's no cover charge! Snacks are provided. Beer, wine, and soft drinks are available for a small donation to cover the cost.

This event has a fun story. At the HUUC Auction in April 2023, Michelle Kelly won the bid for the auction item Sherry had offered – a night of SherryOke. Then, before Michelle could schedule a party, she moved. She didn't want this wonderful opportunity to go to waste, so she raffled it at a Heritage event! Louise and Frank won the draw and, voila! it's time for SherryOke!!! Thanks, Michelle! Thanks, Sherry!

Photo caption: Sherry McCamley

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## Books & Bling & Other Things



**Friday & Saturday, April 26 & 27, 2024 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
in the Great Hall**

Our annual spring sale — *Books & Bling & Other Things* — is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. And your help is needed!

Beginning April 1, 2024, please start dropping off your donations at the church for this sale. You may leave these items in classroom one. (That's the classroom nearest to the Heritage Room.)

### ***What items are needed?***

#### **Books**

**Bling** — jewelry and other fashion accessories, including scarves and purses.

**And Other Things** — household items, home décor, framed art, tools, toys, sporting goods, musical instruments, collectibles, antiques, and smaller furniture pieces.

Donations of other things must be clean, in good condition, and, to streamline the set-up process, priced. The suggested rule for pricing is 10% of retail. (No electronics or DVDs or CDs. please. And no promotional items, *e.g.*, water bottles with the name of the local hospital. They do not sell.) Books and bling will be sold at set rates, so no need to price these items.

### ***Want to do more to help with the church fundraiser?***

*Volunteer.* Signup opportunities will be coming your way via email very soon.

All proceeds from this sale will be for the benefit of the church.

For more information, contact Barbara Rohrer at 513-314-8705 or at:  
[barbara@lyghtelrohrer.com](mailto:barbara@lyghtelrohrer.com)

Image source: courtesy of Barbara Rohrer

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Discover the Underground Railroad



Join us on a visit to Ripley, Ohio on May 18, 2024, 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

This intergenerational trip is designed for all who are interested in learning firsthand about those involved in the Underground Railroad. We are encouraging families to register and join us. We will visit three important sites in the National Underground

Railroad Network to Freedom and share a lunch of pizza and beverages. The bus taking us to these sites will leave Heritage at 9:30 a.m. on May 18, 2024, returning at 4 p.m.

Registration is currently open to all Heritage families. The cost is \$25 per adult, \$15 per student. Registration is limited to 24 persons. The tour's registration fee includes admission fees to the two homes described below. Any donations will go toward the costs for the bus, lunch, and credit card fees incurred during the registration process. The URL to register is: <https://huuc.breezechms.com/form/6d9177>



Photo: Red Oak Presbyterian Church, <http://tinyurl.com/3nfzjbwn>

First, we will start at the Red Oak Presbyterian Church; this chapel was built in 1817, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. This church is known for its architecture and its antislavery activities. From its inception in 1798, this congregation fought valiantly, risking lives, property and their own freedom, to free those who had been manacled by the injustices and crimes of slavery. They believed then, as now, in immediate social justice for all and their commitment to equality and inclusion has not wavered.



Photo: Inside the Rankin House, source: Rae Jane Araujo

Then we will visit the Rankin House. The John Rankin House is a historic house museum.

Built in 1825, the Rankin House was home to abolitionist and Presbyterian minister John Rankin, his wife Jean, and their 13 children. It's estimated that over 2,000 freedom seekers stayed with the Rankins, sometimes as many as 12 at a time.

Though slavery was illegal in Ohio, enslaved people could still be apprehended due to the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850. In order to avoid danger, they had to leave the United States.

Pizza and beverages, at the Rankin House, will be provided to all who register.



Photo: The John Parker house, source: Rae Jane Araujo

We will then meet up at the John Parker House. The John P. Parker House is a historic house museum in Ripley, Ohio. It was home to former enslaved blacksmith and inventor John P. Parker from 1853 until his death in 1900. Parker was an abolitionist and a well-documented conductor on the Underground Railroad, helping hundreds of people who escaped enslavement.

If you have any questions, or would like more information, please contact Rae Jane Araujo at: RaeJane.Araujo@gmail.com

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## Peace Camp Returns to Heritage UU Church



**Monday, June 10, 2024 – Friday, June 14, 2024,  
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. each day.**

We are excited to be offering our families and broader community our third annual Peace Camp at Heritage. Camp will run from Monday, June 10 until Friday, June 14 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. each day, and includes lunch.

Peace Camp is a weeklong day camp with fun daily activities that teaches empathy, encourages tolerance, and respects diversity for kids ages 5-11. It is an immersive experience where kids can learn about themselves, the world around them, and about each other. It is the perfect opportunity to invite friends, family, neighbors, and our wider community to connect with us more deeply. Camp is centered on values that Unitarian Universalists hold dear, but camp is not “religious education,” does not advance a particular theology, and welcomes folks from all faiths or no faith at all.

You can support Peace Camp in the following ways:

**REGISTER:** Campers and Junior Counselors can register at <http://tinyurl.com/4mjmsxr6>.

- Kids 5-11 years old are welcome to attend as campers. The cost is \$275, or sliding scales with scholarships are available.
- Kids 12 -16 years old can serve as junior counselors at no cost and can earn service hours. Junior counselors are a vital part of our camp experience and lead aspects of camp that connect with their interests.
- If any high schoolers (over 16 years old) are interested in serving as counselors, compensation may be available. Interested counselors should contact Laci at [dlfdhuuc@gmail.com](mailto:dlfdhuuc@gmail.com)

**PROMOTE:**

- Pass this announcement along to families that you think might be interested.

- Promote this event via Facebook: <https://fb.me/e/1djWFMOK3>.

**VOLUNTEER:** If you have an hour, or a day, or the entire week that you would like to volunteer or have a related interest or skill to share, please reach out to Laci at: [dldhuuc@gmail.com](mailto:dldhuuc@gmail.com).

**DONATE:** Fees from camp will cover most of the costs of camp staff, but donations make it possible for us to offer youth leadership opportunities at no cost to the youth, a sliding fee scale, scholarships, and could allow us to splurge on an item or two.

Image Source: <https://huuc.breezechms.com/form/3693195139>

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HUUC Women’s Retreat 2024 Dates Set



Mark your 2024 calendars for the HUUC Women’s Retreat at Hope Springs for the 15th year – September 27 - 29, 2024. The event’s details will be announced later in the year.

Image source: Pixabay

Support

Step Up to Serve Heritage Church



This spring brings many opportunities for you to step into leadership and serve Heritage Church and our wider denomination. Here are just a few:

Have you considered serving on our HUUC **Board of Trustees** or on our **Endowment Committee**? Nominate yourself or someone else by contacting Board Vice-President Julie Kane, at: jgkane@cinci.rr.com

There are three three-year Board terms open beginning in July. There is one three-year term for the Endowment Committee beginning in July.

Would you like to get involved in Unitarian Universalism in the Greater Cincinnati area? Consider stepping up to represent Heritage on the **UU Council of Greater Cincinnati**. Again, apply to Julie Kane (see email address above).

All candidates will be voted on at our Annual Meeting on June 2, 2024.

Interested in being a delegate from Heritage to this year's online-only **UUA General Assembly**? Speak with Board President Jaime Castle at:
jaime.castle@me.com

You may have heard that there are important matters being voted on during G.A. this June. Heritage is entitled to four lay delegates, each of whom has a vote in those matters. We'd love to have our full slate of delegates filled this year, so if you've been thinking about this kind of involvement, now is the time to toss your hat in the ring. You don't even have to leave the comfort of your own home, or your own laptop! If you have questions about General Assembly, speak with Rev. Bill Gupton at:
RevBillGupton@gmail.com

Image Source: <https://tinyurl.com/sye7fk53>

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## E-Shopping Discounts, Internet Searches, and Heritage Fundraising



What do these three things have in common? Through Goodshop.com and its associated Goodsearch.com you can shop on-line, receive coupon discounts, and search the web, all while donating to Heritage at no cost to you. From Goodshop, you can find discounts from thousands of popular retailers while Goodshop donates a percentage of your purchase cost to Heritage. From Goodsearch, you fundraise for Heritage merely by freely searching the internet.

### What is Goodshop and How to Use It

Obtain an introduction to Goodshop on their website page: <https://www.goodshop.com/about>. They describe their organization as follows:

*"We like to say that we have the most powerful coupons in the world. Not only do we provide the best shopping deals on the internet, but we also make a donation to the nonprofit or school of your choice for almost every purchase you make. That's right: when you shop with Goodshop you don't just save. You also give, at no extra cost."*

You can get the latest coupons and offers for thousands of top retailers, including Amazon, Macy's, Target, and Best Buy.

To sign up for Goodshop to donate to Heritage because of your purchases, click this link <https://www.goodshop.com/nonprofit/heritage-universalist-unitarian-church>. It will take you to the Goodshop page for you to sign up to adopt Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church as your cause. Go back at any time to [www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com) to look for more coupons and deals.

## What is Goodsearch and How to Use It

When you search the internet using Goodsearch, a Yahoo search engine, you help earn donations for our church. If you select HUUC to receive contributions from your search activity via Goodsearch, we receive credits and eventually dollars from this company.

To activate donations to Heritage from Goodsearch, if you have not already done so, click the link above for Goodshop and sign up to support Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church. Then on that website, click the menu item for Goodsearch. It will take you to a search box where you can search the Internet, just as you would with any other search engine. You can also download a browser extension that will make Goodsearch the default search engine for your browser.

Each search activity contributes one cent to our annual threshold level \$20. Once we achieve that level in a one-year period, we will receive a check for all our searches that year.

Image Source: <https://tinyurl.com/33cw99ed>, compiled with logos by Barb Barnes

## News Articles

### HUUC Member Hosts Free Webinars



Heritage member Rebecca Pace has organized and will host a free series of four on-line webinar discussions over the next several months. The sessions will address numerous aspects of and issues related to the proposed final Article II, as approved at the 2023 GA for continued discussion, and Article II actions that have taken place since the last GA. These webinar sessions occur on March 27, April 24, May 11, and June 1, 2024.

The first webinar on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, held at 8 p.m., discusses four new amendments to the final Article II proposal from the Article II Study Commission (released in October of 2023) that will be on the GA agenda in June 2024. In addition, the previously approved Amendment 52 will be discussed.

The Wednesday, April 24, 2024 webinar, held at 8 p.m., is entitled “What We Gain, What We Lose.” The meeting content addresses proposed Article II’s new ideas that suggest modifications to the way UUs have been functioning and the future direction of the faith. The panelists will include Howard Tolley, of St. John’s Unitarian Universalist, Cincinnati, OH, and Steve Myles of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, VA.

Two more webinars are planned to cover “Accountability and Covenants” on Saturday, May 11, 2024 and “Getting Ready for General Assembly” on Saturday, June 1, 2024.

For further information on the webinars, contact Rebecca Pace at [rebpace@gmail.com](mailto:rebpace@gmail.com)

Images sources: Rebecca Pace in the 2023 GA hall and <https://tinyurl.com/4rwwvztz>

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Board Briefs for March 2024



The Heritage UU Church Board of Trustees met on March 11, 2024. The following summaries their activities.

1. The Board approved the language of a proposed land acknowledgment for HUUC. It is still to be determined exactly what will happen with this language, but possible options include a sign on our grounds and/or in the building.

2. The Board approved a change to the Heritage Acres Operating Agreement, allowing up to nine Heritage Acres board members and requiring that three be members of HUUC.

Image: Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church Board of Trustees, November 2023 through June 2024, left to right: Kate Wells, Luke Walczewski, Rebecca Pace, Garry Wilson, Jaime Castle, Meredith Meyer, and Julie Kane.

Image courtesy of Laci Lee Adams.

From the Archives

Social Justice Activities from the Heirloom 1996-2005

by Mike Roberts, Church Historian



From a recent read, the following quote stood out as a philosophy held by many UU's. "I never can understand why anyone should think, because of absence of rewards or punishments, one should misbehave. I have not the slightest belief in either, and behave myself simply because I find it a thousand times more agreeable than the other thing. Vice always looks to me so atrociously stupid and dull, and there are so many delicious things in the world that I could not imagine myself doing wicked things when the innocent ones are so far more agreeable."

The writer was Elizabeth Bisland, the journalist who embarked on a journey around the world in an attempt to better Jules Verne's fictional trip of 80 days. She headed from New York to the West while at the same time Nellie Bly headed East with the same quest in mind. Bly beat Bisland back to New York but both ladies completed the journey in under 80 days. Bisland had been raised a Calvinist Christian but as an adult had abandoned her childhood religion not believing in eternal damnation.

As UU's, what opportunities did our church's historical membership pursue to participate in Ms. Bisland's "delicious things"? Following are a few that were mentioned in *Heirlooms* from the ten-year period of 1996 to 2005.

The February 1996 *Heirloom* reported that a new social justice committee had been formed and held its first meeting. Attendees were Lisa Arnett, Jim Crocker-Lackness, Sam Gamble, Melissa Rockenfield, and Elinor Artman.

From 1996 to 1998, our church partnered with St. John Fisher Catholic Church of Newtown, Ohio to assist a refugee family who had escaped the war in Kosovo. The tasks associated with this project were varied and many. They included helping the family learn English, getting the children (seven in total) enrolled in school, transporting the family to various functions, working through a bureaucratic maze of paperwork, providing them food and clothing (as the family had left Kosovo with literally the clothes they were wearing), offering homework assistance to the children, and arranging job interviews for the parents. Within 14 months, the family became self-sufficient.

In December 1998, the church participated in the Beech Acres Hug A Family program. Boards were set up with tags on them indicating what gifts might be purchased for the participating needy families. Beech Acres and our own social justice committee were to facilitate delivery of the gifts. Helen Armstrong coordinated the event.

In February of 2000, a new group was introduced to the congregation entitled Greater Anderson Promotes Peace. One of the founders of the group was Louise Lawarre. Helen Armstrong and Jim Yunker encouraged Heritage to become actively involved with the group. A special meeting was held on February 27 to present the group's mission to the membership and other friends of Heritage. In addition, an endorsement written for the Board of Trustees by Bob Rush was sent to GAPP and a special collection was taken at the March 12 service. The mission statement for GAPP read: Greater Anderson Promotes Peace affirms the dignity and value of all people. As a coalition of concerned citizens, we are committed to the ongoing work of peace building as essential for community life. We believe it is critical not to react to acts of intolerance with silent disagreement, but rather, to transform silence and lethargy into visible acceptance of others by actively confronting intolerance and replacing it with acts which promote peace."

While the adults of Heritage were active in social justice issues, our children also were offered many opportunities to serve their community. Beginning in February 2001, the RE classes began collecting sample size toiletry items. These were deposited in a basket in the Great Hall. Later in the spring, these items were bundled by our youth and the items were distributed to homeless persons throughout the Cincinnati area.

In January 2002, Helen Armstrong reported to the congregation concerning the kindness shown during the Christmas season of giving. Over \$500 was donated to the UU Guest at Your Table program, much food, mittens and other clothing were donated to Inter Parish Ministry. Gift certificates, totaling \$150 dollars, were donated to families served by Beech Acres. Toys and clothes were donated in response to an emergency request from the White Oak Tree Grove service project. Gift certificates, totaling \$300, were provided directly to local families. Helen also announced that she and her husband were planning several big trips and she would have to give up her chair leading the social justice committee. Alicia Shamblin was to replace her with help from Donna Buckley.

On June 17, 2002, ground was broken for the Underground Railroad Museum in downtown Cincinnati. As part of the ceremony, singers from around the city provided a choral backdrop to the festivities. At least nine Heritage singers participated, including Bob and Connie Booth.

On July 24, 2003, Barbara Rohrer left Cincinnati for a two-week medical mission to Ecuador. The trip was conducted under the sponsorship of the UU Church of Lexington. Barb asked that our congregation donate medical supplies that she could take with her to help in attending to the needs of the people of Ecuador. It is not known how much was donated, but we hope that Barb left to service needy Ecuadorians with crates full of medical supplies.

The newly formed Welcoming Committee encouraged Heritage to participate in the September 2004 AIDS Walk. Walkers from Heritage raised over \$1,000 in pledges and enjoyed a three mile walk through

downtown Cincinnati. The committee was formed to gain Welcoming Church status through the UUA. As a welcoming church, we opened our doors to those who identified as LGBTQIA+. Along with this, a call went out in June of 2005 for people to participate in the Gay Pride Festival. Kathy Nalepa was the coordinator for both the AIDS walk and the Pride Festival.

It should be noted that the activities cited above are only a small representation of social justice causes with which our church was involved. Often calls were sent out for participation through the *Heirloom* but in many cases, there was no follow-up story about the event. Sometimes we are not very good at “blowing our own horn.” Nevertheless, it is quite evident that Heritage was deeply involved in supporting those in need. Participation in these projects was accomplished by both the adult membership and in RE programming.

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/2r8hjs9r>

The Wider UU World

UUJEC Announces Several Available Webinars



The social justice organization Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC) announced a series of free webinars in their spring newsletter (available at <https://uujec.org/>.) Below are the synopses of several of these upcoming events.

Thursday, April 11, 2024, 8 p.m. – **What Is ISDS?**

Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) enables corporations to fight laws passed by national governments that threaten not only their actual profits, but also their expected profits.

Thursday, April 25, 2024 1 p.m. – **A Chat with BLUU**

BLUU’s Lena Gardner joins us for a lunchtime chat about their current projects and overlap with our economic-justice focus.

Thursday, May 9, 2024, 8 p.m. – **The Power to Heal**

This important documentary is about the fight for Medicare, which forced hospitals to desegregate in order to get federal funds.

To obtain more information and to register for these events, go to <https://uujec.org/webinars> . For more information on UUJEC, contact Rebecca Pace at: rebpace@gmail.com

Image source: <https://uujec.org/>

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## MidAmerica Regional Assembly



**Friday and Saturday, April 19 and 20, 2024.**

**Multiplatform: Online and/or Madison Wisconsin.**

The MidAmerica Region is coming together – both online and at the First Unitarian Society of Madison, Wisconsin on Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20 of 2024 for a multiplatform Regional Assembly!

Our Keynote address will be given by the Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, and Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ.

There will be workshops, the Annual Business Meeting of the MidAmerica Region, and opportunities to meet many UU Leaders from across our faith tradition.

For those who are in person, there will even be opportunities to tour this historic church designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

But most importantly, it is a time for us to come together as Unitarian Universalists from across the MidAmerica Region.

Please join us, online and in-person for our first-ever multi-platform MidAmerica Regional Assembly!

Learn more at <https://www.uua.org/leaderlab/events/threads-connect-stories-inspire> .

To register go to: <http://tinyurl.com/4byyk6sk>

If you have questions, please contact Rae Jane Araujo, who is a MidAmerica Region Board Member. Rae Jane's email address is:

RaeJane.Araujo@gmail.com

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General Assembly News from the UUA - As of March 15, 2024

The UUA released the following announcements regarding the June 20-23, 2024 General Assembly (GA) on March 15, 2024.



- Rev. Jacqueline Brett will serve as the GA's Service of the Living Tradition (SLT) preacher and Soren Astenfeld as SLT music director.
- A tentative business agenda for the 2024 GA has been posted at <https://www.uua.org/files/2023-11/Grid%202024.pdf>.
- Registration for the 2024 GA is open at <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>.

Calendar of HUUC Events

For the online calendar of HUUC events, go to: <https://huuc.net/calendar-for-huuc/> and scroll to the month of interest. See also the list of all events at: <https://huuc.net/events/>

Get Weekly HUUC Updates

People in the Google Group “huuc-announcements” get a few Heritage-related announcement emails each week, including a summary on Monday of the upcoming activities and worship. If you would like to receive

huuc-announcement emails, please send an email requesting it to the church administrator, at:
HUUCoffice@yahoo.com

Heirloom

A publication of
Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church

Rev. Bill Gupton, Senior Minister
Rev. Doak Mansfield, Minister Emeritus
Jaime Castle, Board President
Laci Lee Adams, Director of Lifespan Faith Development
Sherry McCamley, Music Director and Accompanist
Steve McCamley, Choir Director
Martha Viehmann, Church Administrator
Kevin Palmer, Technology Coordinator
Antonio Ciolino, Web Technician
Barb Barnes, *Heirloom* Editor

Submissions for the next *Heirloom* are due **April 22, 2024**.
See <https://huuc.net/website-and-heirloom-newsletter-submitters-guide/> for information on
writing for the *Heirloom*

Send submissions to newsletter1@HUUC.net.
HUUC Contact Information: <https://huuc.net/contact-us/>

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