



Heirloom

Monthly newsletter for members and friends of Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church (HUUC)

February 2025

Worship Dates and Information

For worship on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m., join us in the sanctuary at 2710 Newtown Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45244, or click the Zoom link that appears in the service description at <https://huuc.net/worship-dates-and-information/> or at <https://huuc.net/> for the next upcoming service. The worship service and its attendees may be video recorded and appear later on various media. Recent service videos can be found at <https://huuc.net/worship-videos/> and on <https://YouTube.com>.

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### "State of the Union"



**Sunday January 26, 2025, 10:30 a.m.**

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

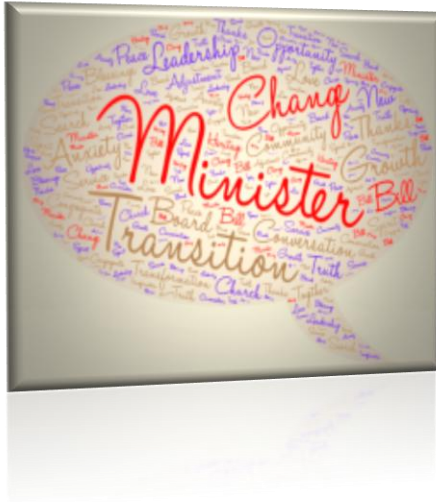
Today marks the first Sunday of a new era in American history – and the first of two consecutive Sundays in which Rev. Bill will reflect on the very unsettled state of affairs in which we find ourselves here at the beginning of the year 2025.

For two decades now, at this time of year, our minister has offered a “State of the Church” sermon, loosely patterned after the U.S. President’s annual “State of the Union” address. Well – that’ll be *next* week. Today, he will consider where our nation and our society are headed, and offer some thoughts on how we might survive the rocky road that lies ahead.

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/rj2xt68s>

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"State of the Church"



Sunday February 2, 2025, 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Bill Gupton leads this service.

Heritage Church – formerly and formally known as the First Universalist Society of Cincinnati – is nearly 198 years old. This morning our Senior Minister, who will be retiring from the Unitarian Universalist ministry this spring, will share his final “State of the Church” reflection.

Legendary Unitarian minister Theodore Parker once spoke of “the transient and the permanent.” With major changes on the horizon at Heritage, what might we hold on to as “timeless” – and what might we embrace as generative transformation? *Our Board of Trustees will also make a report on the status of the ministerial transition during the service, and will hold a town hall meeting immediately after the service to answer your*

questions. Bonus: Our beloved Choir sings for us today!

Image source: created by Bill Gupton and Barb Barnes

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## "Technology and Me"



**Sunday February 9, 2025, 10:30 a.m.**

***Bruce Bowdon, Jen Ciolino, Barbara Rohrer, and Finn Palmer lead this service.***

On February 9, 2025, four members of Heritage (Jen Ciolino, Barbara Rohrer, Finn Palmer, and Bruce Bowdon) will share how they interact with technology in five-minute reflections. There will be a variety of viewpoints that will offer the congregation a

kaleidoscope of ways in considering their relationship with technology.

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/mvd4bn3z>

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"Roots and Rabbit Holes"



Sunday, February 16, 2025, 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Bill Gupton leads this service.

As his retirement from ministry approaches, our Senior Minister has found himself being drawn more and more to researching, and considering his relationship with, his ancestors. With help from his late mother -- who in her lifetime did a considerable amount of family research -- as well as Heritage's resident genealogist, Doug Beezley, and others, Rev. Bill is piecing

together a rather extensive family tree. Like many before him, what he's learning is challenging his previous understanding of his roots. But remember the line from our hymn of invocation: "Roots hold me close; wings set me free." [Today](#) we will journey with Rev. Bill and Doug into what family trees can mean.

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/mbyhsh3v> and <https://tinyurl.com/mczwyf7m>

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## "The Blessing of Water"



**Sunday, February 23, 2025, 10:30 a.m.**  
***Rev. Bill Gupton leads this service.***

Each year, at the end of summer, members and friends of Heritage Church bring water from locations near and dear to us – locations far and near – to pour together into a common vessel, in our annual Ingathering Water Ceremony. That water is used, throughout the year, as we dedicate babies, honor lives lost, and on other ritual occasions. This Sunday, now half a cycle around the sun since our waters were gathered in, we will consecrate them again, to wash away pain and sorrow, to cleanse our spirits, and to shift our perspective in our annual Water Blessing. Today, our hands – and our hearts – will be touched by holy water. Come experience this simple but powerful ritual of healing and grace. We will also enjoy the beautiful music of our HUUC Choir.

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/yd26jpma>

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"The Deadliest Sin"



Sunday, March 2, 2025, 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Bill Gupton leads this service.

Some traditions hold that there are seven "deadly sins." Unitarian Universalists have long taken a different view on the idea of "sin" -- but might there be one thing we can agree on? We live in an age of unrepentant greed. Wealth and riches are celebrated, and become more and more concentrated in fewer and fewer hands with each passing day. This inconvenient truth is, literally, killing people. It is killing the planet. Today we will take a look at the deadliest sin.

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/348fvk3n>

Recent Worship Services

Missed A Sunday Service?



It is not the same as attending in-person or viewing in real time on Zoom, but portions of most worship services are available for later viewing on the church website - HUUC.net. For personal security reasons, the Candles of Community portion of the service is removed. However, if you can't be physically or virtually there on a Sunday morning, you can still enjoy the music and reflections. A collection of recent Sunday worship service videos is available at <https://huuc.net/worship-videos/>.

Images source: HUUC.net media library

Columns and Essays

ON THE PATH



February 2025
by Rev. Bill Gupton

In times like these, I am sustained in hope and encouraged in the fight by music, by poetry, by the inspiration of others, and by those things that I believe to be timeless – love, the Spirit, even the unquenchable force that brings a seed to life and drives a seedling to burst through rock-hard concrete and flower toward the sun.

It has been a bitter cold, bitterly disheartening winter. There has been snow on the ground throughout the entire month of January. (Hey, I didn't sign up for this; I moved to *southern* Ohio, not northern Ohio!). I have been indoors, and online, and disconnected from most people, for far too long. Yet I

know this rose will open, to quote the refrain from one of my favorite ministerial mentors' favorite Unitarian Universalist hymns. I know the spring will come. I know that cruelty and oppression – currently on the rise – will subside. I know, in the words of U2's Bono (and the Bible), that "kingdoms rise, and kingdoms fall."

I know, as well, that the best antidote to despair is community. It is giving and receiving love and compassion. It is sharing our joys and sorrows with others, and sharing a common goal. Which is why I encourage you – I *implore* you – to bundle up in some warm clothes, scrape the frost off the windshield, and make your way to Heritage Church for a good, old-fashioned dose of warm winter community. In this month of February Sundays, you can

- (1) be part of an important conversation about the future of the congregation, on Feb. 2;
 - (2) break bread together in our monthly potluck lunch on Feb. 9;
 - (3) think about where each of us comes from, and what that means, on Feb. 16; and
 - (4) experience the healing power of love, forgiveness, and our Heritage holy water on Feb. 23.
- And that's just the tip of the iceberg (apologies for the chilly metaphor!).

Read this newsletter. Read it. You'll find so much more going on at HUUC than you ever imagined. And wouldn't it feel good to reconnect with other humans – other loving, justice-seeking, open-hearted humans – right about now?

I often end these musings by saying “see you at church.” Well, I will soon be retired, and there are only four more months that I will *see you at church* – so don't waste a week! Let's create and sustain community – now.

Blessings,
Rev. Bill

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## The President's Corner



### **Rebel and Be Joyfully Defiant**

**by Jaime Castle, HUUC Board President**

It is too easy to succumb to the darkness it seems these days. If you've read my articles before, you know about my sister who has been almost completely paralyzed from MS (Multiple Sclerosis.) Whenever I start to feel down about anything in my life, I think about her and how she would give anything to be able to do half of what I can. It is hard to feel sorry for myself anymore or to complain about anything. What is one to do; however, when it

feels like the world is burning down around us? Feelings of sadness and anger, or folks feeling depressed or scared, are very real.

We, each and every one of us, have a differing capacity for how much we can take on – how much fight we have in us. That tank shifts in its fullness and emptiness as well. I think about the role a church has in a person's life. There are many reasons why a person seeks out a church: for community, for enlightenment, to fill one's bucket. That last reason mentioned gets to the notion that we can find energy and inspiration here. We can go back out into the world feeling a little bit stronger and hopeful, ideally. We can add a new piece of armor to ourselves as we take on the bigger issues around us.

I've made a conscientious decision to use my remaining months in this position in this space to be a little beacon of light. I'm going to dedicate these reflections and articles of mine to help you find more joy in the world around us. Each month I will explore different things that I would like to bring to your attention and perhaps you will pick up some helpful tidbits of fun and/or joy! Finding joy and being joyful can be a very real act of defiance in dark times!

This month, my dear rebel, I am going to share with you some really great apps that you may not know about. Whether you consider yourself a technological dunce or a top-level techie nerd, these suggestions are sure to bring delight, and you have the skills necessary to find them! The only skills that you need are the ability to open the app store on your phone and the ability to type in the apps' names in your search bar.

Three nights ago, my oldest child and I were looking out a large front window of our home and he asked me, while pointing up, what star that was glowing and blinking so brightly. I shrugged and guessed it was probably the planet Venus. Then I remembered that I have an app that all you have to do is aim your phone to the night sky and the screen displays the sky, labeling the stars, the moon, the constellations, and the planets. It turns out that the star was Sirius, and we looked up fun facts about it. That free app is called Sky Guide. The sky is the limit with this app, and it will definitely put things into perspective in that we are truly so small in the grand scheme of things.

Another free app that I love is called Merlin Bird ID. This app you open up when you are outside and listening for birds. It listens and records what it hears and identifies what types of birds you are hearing. You can save your recordings and the coordinating list of the birds that you heard. Some really fun finds that I've heard are a barred owl, a red-shouldered hawk, a northern mockingbird, and an eastern bluebird. The most variety of birds that I've heard thus far was sixteen different kinds of birds in a fourteen-minute sampling. This is such a fun app that makes you truly stop and appreciate the nature around you!

The last free app that I'd like to mention is called Seek and where Merlin uses your microphone feature, this app uses your phone's camera. Have you ever noticed a plant, a flower, or a tree, and wondered what it was? This app allows you to hover your camera over a plant and it will scan it and identify it. Like Merlin, it saves your observations, and you can keep a collection. It will tell you a little bit about each item and it crowd-sources these finds, mapping out the range of where things are found. Some fun things that I've come across are: a princess tree, Allegheny blackberry, white mulberry, and eastern poison ivy. I've only used this app for plant identification, but other living things can also be identified with it.

I'd love to hear about apps that you've discovered, and I encourage you to take some time to see what else is available. Maybe less time on social media apps and more time with nature apps will be a balm for your soul. This snow will melt away and soon we will be able to touch the grass. Soon enough spring flowers will emerge, and how great is it that we will know their names!

Image source: courtesy of Jaime Castle and <https://tinyurl.com/29wpcxc9>

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I Wonder . . .



Where has Joy Surprised You? by Laci Lee Adams, HUUC DLFD

The Popler-Adams family has recently added five new members (pictured above or left.) NO - they are not children, strictly speaking, but are aquatic inhabitants of our new fish tank.

Benny, my child - age five, has been requesting a fish for nearly a year. And Emily, my wife, has generally been inclined to grant this wish, largely because she had her own fish tank for many years during her childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood. I was seriously not enthused! I made the occasional attempt at raising sea monkeys growing up, but didn't have fish for any extended period of my life. I was pretty sure that the work of caring for the fish tank and its inhabitants was going to fall to me. In my mind, the cost benefit analysis of a fish tank was pretty poor, i.e., lots of work (cost) for nothing in return (benefit.) Honestly, I thought, "What does anyone get from fish as pets?"

Wow – I was so wrong about this fish tank! The whole family is absolutely captivated by the fish tank and its inhabitants. The fish tank lives on a child-size table in our dining room, which puts it right at the kids' eye level. Two mornings a week, one of Benny's friends spends part of the morning with us before the kids walk to school together. And the fish table is their favorite place to share breakfast and yogurt "smoothies." They talk to each other about the fish (offering interesting color commentary about the tank goings-on) and they talk to the fish. Molly, my child - 17 months, loves to independently make her way to the fish tank and chortles in delight by the color and the movement. Even Bagel, the dog, seems to enjoy stopping occasionally to watch the fish tank. Maybe the most surprising thing to me is the amount of joy that I have experienced by the addition of the fish tank to our lives.

The presence of the tank itself, and the constant sound of bubbling water, seems to add a peaceful element to our living space. I find myself gravitating to the fish tank when I feel overwhelmed, anxious, or uncertain. When I need to consider something, I often do that sitting next to the fish tank. I was entirely wrong about who shoulders the burden of caring for the tank, but I have found a ready helper. Benny has two jobs: feeding the fish and cleaning the tank walls. Benny takes seriously their job of feeding (but not overfeeding) the fish. If asked they can report the amount and last time they fed the fish. We also got a special magnetic wall cleaner, which Benny uses daily. Benny even helps (somewhat) with the weekly tasks of replacing tank water.

Joy can surprise us this way! It can find us unawares. Sometimes we experience joy in novel experiences or by finding help where we weren't expecting it. Sometimes joy surprises us when we share in the joy of others (such as Molly's full throttled enjoyment of a fish tank.) Sometimes joy surprises us when we find peace in an unlikely place. Sometimes joy finds us when something completely absurd but hoped for happens (like a snail on the back of a flamingo!)



I am profoundly grateful for this fish tank and its inhabitants, as it stands as a constant and sturdy reminder to me that joy can find me when I am least expecting it. There is much around me that does not make me feel joy today, but here's the fish tank! Its bubbling still helps me breathe. I still gravitate to its presence. The snails still amaze me. The lives of the fish still delight me. The thrill of my children still makes me smile. They are tiny reminders that something else, something more (more love, more joy, more possibility) exists.

I hope you can find a bit of the same in these images.

If you are looking to have your own fish tank moment – consider the Popler-Adams fish tank. There are five inhabitants. The obvious front and center goldfish is Benny's, named Kinns-dee. There is another less obvious goldfish here. If you need a hint, it's a black goldfish. Benny has kindly given me rights to name this one, so I am open to suggestions.

There are also three snails. One of the snails you will not find in the picture, a small black and orange nerite snail. Its name is Houdini because I have honestly only seen that snail three or four times total and one sighting was on the dining room floor a week after I was convinced the snail had died or left! There are also two mystery snails (one gold and one black.) The gold mystery snail is named Camille, since she is better than her brother at camouflage. The black mystery snail also awaits a name, if inspiration strikes you!

Image source: photos by Laci Lee Adams

Announcements

HUUC Town Hall Meeting February 2, 2025 after Morning Worship



February 2, 2025 in the sanctuary, immediately following the morning worship service

The Heritage UU Church Board of Trustees will host a Town Hall meeting following the service on Sunday, February 2, 2025. We expect the discussion to begin sometime between 11:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. We will continue in-person from the sanctuary and on the Zoom service link after a brief break when the service ends. We will provide an overview of what the Board has been working on thus far this year and updates on the process of our new minister search. There will be time for Q&A.

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>

Ministries

Social Justice Collaborative Meets in January



The HUUC Social Justice Collaborative will meet on Sunday, January 26, 2025 in the Heritage Room starting ten minutes after the completion of the morning worship service.

Any member or friend of Heritage is welcome to attend and learn more about our work to seek justice for all. The Collaborative brings together individuals who have passion for various areas of social justice, including racial justice, economic equity, governmental reform, homelessness, LGBTQ+ issues, and basic human rights for all. We meet to share information and support each other in this important and oftentimes difficult work.

If you would like more information or a topic added to the agenda, contact Mimi Sinclair at: mimisinclair@me.com

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/yck8589n>

Community Events

Midweek Mindfulness



Every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.

Midweek Mindfulness is a powerful, transformative, very easy and quick spiritual practice. Set a recurring reminder on your phone for 12:30 each Wednesday. Then join others in the Heritage community (and literally around the world) in five minutes – *just five minutes* – of mindfulness. Take a break, right in the middle of your busy and stressful week, from 12:30-12:35 p.m. each Wednesday, to breathe. To rest. To meditate. To be. Stop and smell the roses. Look at the clouds passing overhead, or a flower in the grass (or on your desk). And know, as you are doing it, that many others are doing the same. Join them in mindfulness and spiritual connection.

Image courtesy of Intel Free Press via [Flickr](#). Creative Commons License.

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## Sing Out Sisters



**Second Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 p.m., in the sanctuary.**

We gather in circle as women to create sacred space through song. Feel free to bring an altar item to co-create the altar.

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The HUUC Indigenous Issues Group Reads "A Council of Dolls"



**A novel by Mona Susan Power
7:00 - 8:30 p.m., January 28, 2025,
in the Heritage Room**

Amazon.com describes this book that spans the years as "(f)rom the mid-century metropolis of Chicago to the windswept ancestral lands of the Dakota people, to the bleak and brutal Indian boarding schools, *A Council of Dolls* is the story of three women, told in part through the stories of the dolls they carried...." Amazon.com continues that this novel by award-winning Native American author Mona Susan Power is "(a) modern masterpiece. *A Council of Dolls* is gorgeous, quietly devastating, and ultimately hopeful, shining a light on the echoing damage wrought by Indian boarding schools, and the historical massacres of Indigenous people. With stunning prose, Mona Susan Power weaves a spell of love and

healing that comes alive on the page."

The HUUC Indigenous Issues Group will discuss this novel starting at 7 p.m. on January 28, 2025 in the Heritage Room.

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/59xyn4jr>

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## Join Us for a Six-Week Yoga & Meditation Series



***at Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church  
7:00 - 8:15 p.m. in the church's sanctuary on  
various dates below***

Looking for a peaceful space to unwind, to center yourself, and to connect with others? We invite you to join our grounding, free, six-week series designed to help you find calm amidst the chaos.

### **What to Expect:**

- **Tuesday, January 21 and Tuesday February 18, 2025 - Breathwork & Yogic Techniques** to restore balance and reduce stress (lead by Tracy Jo Duckworth)
- **Wednesday, January 29, 2025 - Guided Meditation** to quiet the mind and nurture inner peace (lead by Maureen Boylan)
- **Tuesday, February 4, 2025 - Yoga Nidra Relaxation** to deeply relax and rejuvenate (lead by Julie Lusk)
- **Wednesday, February 12 and February 26, 2025 - Gentle Yoga** to release tension and cultivate mindful movement (lead by Joelle Tunning)

This series is a sanctuary from political angst and a chance to be in community, embrace mindfulness, and create space for healing. All are welcome. No previous experience is required. No childcare is provided. Please bring a yoga mat to most of these sessions.

Let's come together to breathe, move, and find peace in this collective journey.

Mark your calendars for 7:00 - 8:15 p.m. for yoga and meditation on January 21, January 29, February 4, February 12, February 18, and February 26 in the HUUC sanctuary.

For more information, contact Katie Kpaeyeh at

ktonger@gmail.com

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/3huzj73m>

## Potluck Lunch Sunday, February 9, 2025



### **After the morning worship service, in the Great Hall**

January is nearly over. Are you still on that New Year's resolution diet? Most of us would laugh and change the subject when asked that question. Yes, for many of us, happiness is a piece of cake, as is so often found amongst the many desserts of our second Sunday potluck lunches held in the great hall immediately following morning

worship service. For those strong-willed among us, you will be able to find many offerings that fit into your resolution.

Make something, buy something, or just bring yourself - it doesn't matter, there is always more than enough to fit the desires of the strictest vegan to the most ravenous carnivore. Please join us to break bread, chat with old friends, and make some new ones immediately after worship service in the great hall.

Image Source: <http://tinyurl.com/5fsaz6r5>

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ACRU and GAPP Sponsors Immigration 101 Program



Tuesday, February 18, 2025

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

8101 Beechmont Ave.

Cincinnati, OH 45255

Anderson Churches for Racial Unity (ACRU) and Greater Anderson Promotes Peace (GAPP) are sponsoring an educational program titled Immigration 101 by the organization Ignite Peace. Ignite Peace (formerly Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center) educates and advocates for peace, challenges unjust systems, and promotes the creation of a nonviolent society. According to the Ignite Peace website, ignitepeace.org, the organization describes the course as follows:

"Are you new to the Immigration Justice movement?

Could you use a refresher on how our immigration system works?

Do you know someone who wants to understand the issue of immigration better?

You are invited to a special offering of our **Immigration 101** presentation. We will define basic terms, facilitate a small group activity using the Immigration Board Game, offer a local story, and encourage discussion on current events and challenges facing the immigrant community in Cincinnati. We will also provide ways for you to get plugged into our powerful movement for change."

Registration for this event is requested at <https://immigration101cincy.eventbrite.com>.

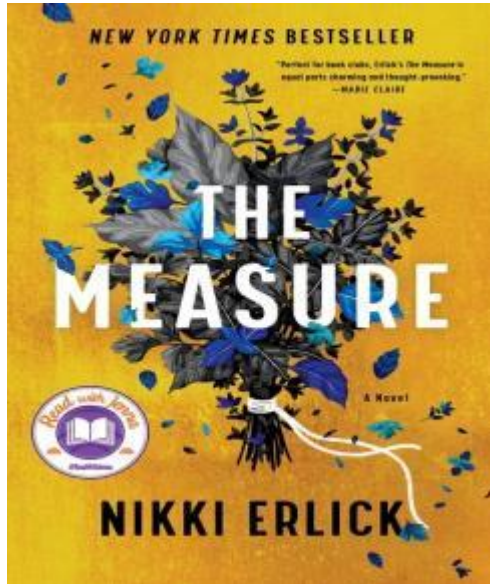
For further information contact www.gappeace.org

gapp.peace@gmail.com

Image source: ACRU/GAPP Immigration 101 flyer

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## The BWB Considers a Bit of String



**February 19, 2025, 7 - 9 p.m. in the Heritage Room**

The Babes with Books (also known as the BWB or Heritage Women's Book club) has selected the instant NY Times bestseller and Read With Jenna Today Show Book Club Pick *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick as the February pick for the BWB gathering. According to Jenna Bush Hager, this is a "story of love and hope as interweaving characters display: how all moments, big and small, can measure a life. If you want joy, love, romance, and hope—read with us." This luminous, spirit-lifting blockbuster asks: would you choose to find out the length of your life?

The current selections for BWB upcoming meetings are as follows:

March 19, 2025 - *True Biz*, by Sara Novic

April 16, 2025 - *The Lost Book of Bonn*, by Brianna Labuskes

May 21, 2025 - *The Briar Club*, by Kate Quinn

June 18, 2025 - *The Whalebone Theater*, by Joanna Quinn

All BWB meetings run from 7 - 9 p.m. 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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Our 2025 Rummage Sale



Thursday, March 6, 2025, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

(Limited Access)

Friday, March 7, 2025, 9 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Public)

Saturday, March 8, 2025, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

(Public)

In the HUUC Great Hall

Our annual rummage sale is weeks away, and we need your donations to make the sale a success!

Donations can include household items for kitchen and bath, home décor, linens, tools, toys, sporting goods, musical instruments, jewelry and fashion accessories, antiques, collectibles, and small furniture pieces.

All donations must be clean and in good working order. *Each item needs to be priced.* You will find a price guideline with stickers for pricing in the Great Hall (to the right of the coffee maker).

Donations may be left in the meditation room (formerly the preschool room; the room next to the kitchen) beginning Sunday, February 23, from noon to 3:00 p.m.

Additional dates for drop off are as follows:

- Monday, February 24, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 26, through Friday, February 28, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Sunday, March 2, Noon to 3:00 p.m.
- Monday and Tuesday, March 3 & 4, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Note: No donations are to be brought to the church after Tuesday, March 4.

The sale on Thursday will be open to Heritage members, families, and friends. The sale on Friday and Saturday will be open to the public.

Watch your email for a link to SignUpGenius to volunteer to help with the set-up, sale, and clean-up!

All proceeds from this sale will go to this year's operating budget.

For more information, contact Barbara Rohrer at:

barbara@lyghtelrohrer.com

Image source: Pixabay, photographer - Jacqueline Macou

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## Join an "Improvational" Night of Food and Fun - Explore Leaning Into the Unknown



**Saturday, March 29th, 2025, 6:00 - 9:30 p.m.**

**(at the latest)**

**in the HUUC Great Hall**

**Cost: \$30 per person**

This dinner/improv event is inspired by Bill Lyon's recent sermon on improv. The first rule of improv is "Say YES and..." Please say YES to supporting HUUC at this unique fundraiser.

We can't tell you what is on the menu because we don't even know! Come along and be surprised! A vegetarian option will be available (who knows, the whole meal may be vegetarian!) There will be something to please everyone. You know it's going to be good because Chefs Julie Kane and Tracy Jo will be in the kitchen.

The rest of the evening's entertainment is best summed up right now as "yet to be determined." In the true spirit of improv, it might be determined right before your eyes! Stay tuned for more details or just open yourself to the spontaneous possibilities as they unfold.

Enjoy a full evening of food, fun, and friends. Explore leaning into the unknown! Follow this link to register: <https://huuc.breezechms.com/form/bd4f98>

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

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Unleash Your True Colors: A Pride Camp for LGBTQ+ Youth



June 9 - 13, 2025

Discover a vibrant summer at our inclusive Pride Camp! This unique experience offers a safe and supportive space for LGBTQ+ youth aged 13-18 to explore their identities and be in community. Engage in daily yoga and mindfulness practices, immerse yourself in nature, express yourself artistically and foster a deep connection and a sense of belonging within your local LGBTQ+ community.

Key elements:

- **Safe & Inclusive:** A supportive environment free from judgment and discrimination
- **Meditation & Yoga:** Mindfulness practices, stress and anxiety reduction
- **Social Justice:** Learn about LGBTQ+ history and rights & Take action together

- **Nature:** Outdoor activities, nature walks

This camp provides a transformative experience where young people can celebrate their authentic selves and build lasting connections with others.

To register access the link below:

<https://huuc.breezechms.com/form/369319513981>

For more information contact Laci Lee Adams at:

dlfdhuuc@gmail.com

Image source: Canva

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## Cultivating Peace through Play: Peace Camp



July 7 - 11, 2025, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Peace Camp is a week-long day camp with fun daily activities that teach empathy, encourage tolerance, and respect 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.

### Key elements:

- **Cooking and baking:** Yes! Campers make their own lunches.
- **Nature:** Outdoor activities, games, and nature walks
- **Self-Expression:** Arts, crafts, music and theatre and
- **Meditation & Yoga:** Cultivating peace practices like yoga or meditation.

We offer a low counselor to camper ratio, so campers can learn how to connect with one another, to express their emotions, to build community and to navigate conflict. Our hope is that each camper finishes the week with a greater sense of self, more resilience, and exhausted from all the fun!

### REGISTRATION

Kids 12+ can serve as junior counselors (at no cost, while earning service hours!). Junior Counselors are a vital part of our camp experience and are empowered and supported to lead aspects of camp that connect with their interests.

Kids 5-11 are welcome to attend as campers (cost is \$275 or sliding scale with scholarship available!). There is also a \$50 sibling discount for each subsequent child.

To register access the link below:

<https://huuc.breezechms.com/form/369319513957>

For more information contact Laci Lee Adams at:

dlfdhuuc@gmail.com

Image source: Canva



## Support

### IPM's Most Needed Items



Bob Drake, our contact with IPM (Inter Parish Ministries), is making a special request to Heritage folks for donations of personal care items. These items are constantly in demand (and often in short supply) - especially feminine care products, such as menstrual pads and tampons.

Bob asks members of the HUUC community to bring sanitary pads and tampons to the church and place them in the IPM designated shopping cart located in the Great Hall. You will be providing a valuable service to IPM and our neighbors who

count on IPM (and you too!).

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/5yxx9xm3>

### Supporting Pride and Peace Camps



As described in the events section of both the Heirloom and HUUC.net website, HUUC is hosting two youth camps this summer, Pride Camp and Peace Camp. Please refer to the respective articles/postings at either of those sources. However, you don't need to be a camper to support these programs.

You can support our camps in the following ways:

- **PROMOTE:** Share this announcement with friends and families that you think might be interested.
- **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:

[dldfhuuc@gmail.com](mailto:dldfhuuc@gmail.com)

- **DONATE:** Fees from campers cover most of the costs of our camps, but donations make it possible for us to offer youth leadership opportunities at no cost, a sliding fee scale, and scholarships.

In the case of Pride Camp, donations will make it possible for us to offer additional support and services to an especially vulnerable group of young people. Your donations are generously accepted.

To donate you can access the following:  
<https://huuc.breezechms.com/give/online>

Image source: canva

## News Articles

### HUUC Board Briefs for January 2025



The Heritage UU Church Board of Trustees met on January 13, 2025. The following summarizes their activities.

The board continues to work on our upcoming minister transition. Thank you to those of you who were able to attend our cottage meetings over the last week—we greatly appreciated hearing from you all as we move ahead in this process. We have a town hall meeting upcoming after the morning service on Feb. 2, 2025. The service itself will also be centered on this transition. Please plan to attend service on this day!

Photo caption:  
HUUC Board of Trustee members -  
Front row: Jaime Castle, Rebecca Pace  
Back row: Luke Walczewski, Antonio Ciolino, Garry Wilson, Susan Conley, Roger Miller  
Image source: <https://huuc.net/huuc-board-members/>

## Creativity Corner

### Call for "Winter" Compositions



Having endured only a few weeks since the December 21, 2024 official commencement of winter, it is hard to believe that we need to wait until March 20, 2025 for the official start of spring this year. Yet, we know that the vicissitudes of Cincinnati weather may not necessarily comply with the calendar and astronomical events. As a result, we might as well welcome the inspirations that winter brings to us.

So HUUC congregants, please submit your one page or less original compositions of poetry or prose regarding the theme of "winter" for publishing in the March *Heirloom* edition, slated for release in late February. The submissions deadline is February 25, 2025 at 5 p.m.; however, it is strongly suggested that you submit your creations at least one week prior to allow you to review the published format.

Image source: created by B. L. Barnes

## From the Archives

### Those Who Have Served - Part 2



*by Mike Roberts, HUUC Church Historian*

Last month, in presenting a snippet of the lives of two of our past members, it occurred to me, that the role of women in the church has historically been restricted to certain designated areas. Certainly, our liberal church expanded the role of women ahead of most other beliefs, but in examining the archives, many of our female members played their parts in traditional pursuits of outreach, charity, and aiding the less fortunate.

Our first female minister did not take the pulpit until the 1980s. However, a woman held our pulpit as guest minister for nearly nine months in the 1880s. In the mid-1930s, a woman named Lydia Beck served on the Board of Trustees and several other women served as Board Secretary and the Society's Financial Manager. Nonetheless, it would be an injustice not to

mention some of these women in our past while examining the church leadership. The first to consider will be a surname well known to many in Cincinnati.

Mrs. Charlotte Wooley Crosley was born on March 29, 1864 in Cincinnati, the daughter of Lewis Utz and Elizabeth Wooley. On October 8, 1885, she married Powel Crosley, Sr. a prominent Cincinnati attorney. They had four children, Powel Jr., Lewis, Evelyn, and Charlotte who died at age three of scarlet fever.

The family is most remembered for the accomplishments of Powel, Jr. and Lewis. The former was the owner of WLW and the Cincinnati Reds. His entrepreneurial ideas were often turned over to brother, Lewis, who was an engineer and could turn Powel's dreams into reality. Just to name two dreams, the brothers marketed the first low-cost radio to families across the nation and built the proximity fuse that many believed shortened WWII by several months. As is the case with many high achievers, much credit for their success has to go to their parents.

Mrs. Crosley died on January 14, 1949 and her obituary states that, "outside of her home, which was her primary interest in life, Mrs. Crosley found her greatest satisfaction in working for the First Universalist Church, Essex Place, which her grandparents had helped to found. She was one of the oldest members of the congregation, having been active in church affairs up to the time of her death."

Mrs. Crosley served faithfully for years on the Women's Universalist Missionary Alliance (WUMA). The group supported the Universalist mission in Japan and outreach efforts in the U.S., especially in North Carolina. She hosted fund raising events, cooked meals to be sold at dinners, and donated her own money to the cause. She chaired numerous committees for the Alliance including one to beautify the church lawn. The WUMA provided lengthy annual reports to the Board of Trustees and those survive in our archives. Sadly, reports from other committees have been lost so it is difficult to know what other roles she may have played in the church but it is known that she collaborated with the Clara Barton Guild on many occasions.

The Universalist missionary effort in Japan became increasingly difficult to maintain because of Japan's militaristic stance with their East Asian neighbors and the existence of the WUMA was to come to an end

even before Pearl Harbor. During the war, much of the church's charitable efforts were directed toward support of the troops and Mrs. Crosley was active on that front both through the church and her sons' efforts.

Image courtesy of Mike Roberts

## The Wider UU World

### Register Now for Cincinnati UU Council's Impactful Anti-Racism Course - "Building the World We Dream About 2025"



**February 18 - April 8, 2025, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.**  
**Held On-line**

- Uncomfortable talking about race even though you work hard to be inclusive?
- Does your perceived identity give you privilege over others?
- Want to candidly discuss questions and feelings about racial justice with other UUs?

"Building the World We Dream About 2025" is an eight-week online course offered by UU Council of Greater Cincinnati to help Unitarian Universalists from various multicultural experiences explore how to be better antiracists. The course runs consecutive **Tuesday** evenings on Zoom, from **February 18** through **April 8, 2025** from 7:00 - 8:30 pm.

Unique this year, registrants from previous courses in 2022-2024 are invited to join new participants in attending brand new sessions on **April 1** (topic: institutional racism in policing and incarceration) and **April 8** (topic: reparations and repentance). Previous participants also have the option of repeating the entire eight-week course.

This year's course blends the highly regarded UUA curriculum "Building the World We Dream About" with the UUA's brand new "Mosaic" program that confronts systemic racism. Session topics include multiple realities, identity, dominant culture, whiteness and privilege, multicultural competence, UU and USA racial histories, systemic restorative justice and reparations. Interactive group discussions delve into racial and religious dimensions.

Registration is required at <https://tinyurl.com/BTWDA-2025> Register by Feb. 1, 2025. There is no course fee. Regular attendance is expected.

For more information, contact co-facilitators Joetta Prost or Diana Long from St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church, or Linnea Lose from First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati via the email addresses shown below.

joettaprost@gmail.com  
diana.r.long@gmail.com  
linnealose@gmail.com

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/yy8pd3fh>

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UUA's MOSAIC Offers Numerous New Programs



Mosaic, the UUA's online hub of connection, resources, and support for Unitarian Universalists dismantling racism and oppression, is offering several educational programs over the next several months.

Winter Skill Up Groups Begins Jan 29th

Ready to go deeper in your Anti-racism/Anti-Oppression/Multicultural transformation work in your congregation or organization? Mosaic Skill-up Learning and Practice Communities are facilitated small group experiences helping leaders develop effective AR/AO/MC transformation work in their context. These virtual, time-limited groups are led by trained facilitators.

Groups include:

Black, Indigenous, and Other People of Color (BIPOC) Group

Must be BIPOC to join

Facilitator: Jon Ramirez

Time: Sun. 4 p.m. PT (5 p.m. MT/ 6 p.m. CT/ 7 p.m. ET)

Start date: February 2, 2025

White Identity Group

Facilitator(s): Carrie Stewart, Lisa Napier

Time: Weds. 9 a.m. PT (10 a.m. MT/11 a.m. CT/12 p.m. ET)

Start date: January 29, 2025

Register at www.uua.org/mosaic/

National Learning and Practice Gatherings

Mosaic National Learning and Practice Gatherings support organizations and congregations' long-term commitment to carry out Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression/Multicultural (AR/AO/MC) transformation work in their contexts. These gatherings will include a mix of facilitated learning from trusted voices in the movement for AR/AO/MC transformation and opportunities to be in conversation with fellow UUs from across our movement. Whether you are a seasoned leader or just curious to learn more, you are welcome. National Learning and Practice Communities are approximately 90 minutes long. Participants may come to one, many, or all gatherings.

Tentative 2025 Dates and Themes:

Monday, January 13, 2025, 5 p.m. Pacific (1 p.m. HT/ 6 p.m. MT/ 7 p.m. CT/ 8 p.m. ET)
Intersectional approaches to AR/AO/MC transformation

Monday April 21, 2025, 5 p.m. Pacific (2 p.m. HT/ 6 p.m. MT/ 7 p.m. CT/ 8 p.m. ET)
AR/AO/MC Leadership development for today's world

Interested in participating in a National Mosaic Learning and Practice group? Be sure to get the latest information on available groups and registration by filling out this form found at this link:
<https://tinyurl.com/2t4bch6k>

Beloved Conversations

Beloved Conversations is a program for people seeking to embody racial justice as a spiritual practice. The program is grounded in Unitarian Universalism, developed and offered by the Fahs Collaborative at Meadville Lombard Theological School, and open to all learners. In Beloved Conversations, seeks to heal the impact of racism on our lives, in order to get free together. Learn more at: <https://tinyurl.com/57jfsew8>.

WEAV - A Unitarian Universalist Congregational Curriculum

A 10-module small group ministry program designed to inspire participants as agents of sacred social change. WEAV stands for Who and What are UUs? Embodied Justice, Advocacy, and Vision. Learn more at: <https://tinyurl.com/3vnnwwnb>.

Image source: <https://www.uua.org/mosaic>

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## **UUA Announces GA 2025 Co-Worship Leaders**



The UUA has announced that both Rev. Paige Getty and Rev. Dr. Rebekah A. Savage will lead on line the 2025 General Assembly Opening Celebration on Wednesday, June 18, 2025 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. ET.

Raised in the state of Georgia, Rev. Paige Getty's early vocational journey took her to Harvard Divinity School for seminary training; to the UUA's Beacon Hill headquarters in Boston, MA, for field education work; to First UU Church in San Diego, CA, for a ministerial internship; and to Shawnee Mission UU Church in Overland Park, KS, for an interim ministry. In 2003, she and her spouse Graham settled in Columbia, MD, where for 21 years Paige served the UU Congregation of Columbia — concluding that ministry in [June 2024](#). Paige has held leadership positions in the Chesapeake Chapter of the UUMA, is trained as a Lead Mentor and as a facilitator of Our Whole Lives and Beyond Categorical Thinking, and delivered the sermon at the Service of the Living Tradition in 2010. She and Graham are parents to two (nearly) young-adult children, and Paige currently is enjoying this liminal vocational time as she invests more deeply in building interfaith relationships in her local community.

Rev. Rebekah A. Savage is a lifelong UU, raised in the River Road UU Congregation in Bethesda, MD. Her years as a UU youth in an encouraging congregation led her to go to seminary at Union Theological

Seminary in New York City, NY, following her graduation from Macalester College in St. Paul, MN. After her ministerial internship in Boca Raton, FL, Rev. Rebekah went from a residency in Clinical Pastoral Education to being commissioned as a military chaplain with her ordination to the UU ministry in 2003. After completing an overseas deployment in 2006, Rev. Rebekah moved back to Maryland and remained on active duty and other civilian positions until accepting a ministry position at the UU Congregation of Rockville, MD in 2015. Besides completing a Masters in Mental Health Counseling in 2007, Rev. Rebekah received a Doctorate in Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC in **May 2020**. Rev. Rebekah preached the sermon at the Service of the Living Tradition in 2014, and completed 8 years of service on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, with 5 years as the co-chair of the MFC, in spring of 2025. Rev. Rebekah is the proud parent of two teenagers, Genevieve and Thane, and spends much of her time happily on bike trails, on a yoga mat and at the gym.

Images source: UUA

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UUA Features Two GA 2025 Speakers



The UUA is featuring two speakers for the 2025 General Assembly - Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis and Professor Gloria J. Browne-Marshall.

Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, co-chair of the Poor People’s Campaign and a leading voice in the movement to end poverty will share insights from her thirty years of anti-poverty organizing, highlighting the unsung heroes leading this work and exploring how the poor must shape a more just society. She will challenge Unitarian Universalists to deepen their commitment to justice and become part of this vital movement to reclaim democracy.

Throughout history, the right to protest has been essential to shaping justice and democracy. Prof. Browne-Marshall will explore the significance of protest in U.S. history, drawing from centuries of resistance and weaving in her own family’s stories. Her words promise to be both deeply personal and universally resonant, inviting all of us to reflect on how we can engage in meaningful resistance against oppression.

Images source: UUA.org

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, entitled *Heritage Connection*, 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

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Submissions for the next *Heirloom* are due by **5 p.m., Tuesday, February 25, 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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