

Celebrate Life, Create Community, Seek Justice

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>.

"Celebrations of Spring: Flower Communion & Child Dedication



Sunday, May 4, 2025, 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Bill Gupton leads this service.

Join us this Sunday as we celebrate the rites of spring at Heritage Church! In our traditional Unitarian Universalist Flower Communion ceremony, we will beautify our altar with fresh flowers, and each take home with us a lovely reminder of the Love that is the spirit of our church. We will also bless the youngest members of our church family in another cherished UU tradition, our Baby and Child Dedication.

In addition, our Choir will make beautiful music for us today, and our former Choir Director, Erin McCamley, will also sing.

Each person is invited to bring a fresh flower to church this morning. Our Flower Communion involves sharing those flowers with others. If you have a baby or small child whom you would like to be blessed and dedicated, please contact Rev. Bill by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 30, 2025 to make arrangements to participate in that ceremony.

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/mkaa25ye>

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## "Ask a Minister" Citywide UU Service at First Unitarian Church



**Sunday, May 11, 2025, 10:30 a.m.**

***Three area UU ministers lead this service at  
First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati  
536 Linton St. Cincinnati, OH 5219***

It has become something of a tradition in recent years for all the Unitarian Universalist congregations in Cincinnati to hold a joint worship service each spring, near the end of the "church year." Join other UUs from all over the area this morning as the city's three parish ministers – our own Rev. Bill Gupton, Rev. Jenn Gracen of St. John's UU Church, and Rev. Alex Riegel of First Unitarian Church – answer your questions about Unitarian Universalism, religion, spirituality, worship, church dynamics, the state of the world, the meaning of life, and probably other more

esoteric topics.

Our clergy panel invites you to "Ask a Minister" by submitting your questions, prior to the service, at [alex.riegel@firstuu.com](mailto:alex.riegel@firstuu.com)

They'll select the best, the funniest, the most poignant and challenging inquiries to answer live from the chancel in a "question box" format. The deadline for submitting questions is Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

All are invited to First Unitarian Church to hear from our local UU ministers, to enjoy beautiful music and singing, prayers and silence. There will also be children's programming, and great UU fellowship and food. Bring a friend!

**There will be no service at Heritage this morning. The church will be closed.**

Image source: <https://www.uua.org/leaderlab/chalice-clip-art>

## "If an Office Could Talk . . ."



**Sunday, May 18, 2025, 10:30 a.m.**

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

One of the mundane but very necessary tasks of preparing for retirement involves cleaning out one's office. After 23 years in the same office, Rev. Bill has begun the heavy emotional (and also, in some cases, physical) lift of making space in the "Minister's Study" for his successor. In the process, he's finding treasured keepsakes, unearthing long-lost records, sparking innumerable memories, and occasionally even coming across a "what the heck is this?" item or two. In this, his penultimate reflection as our Senior Minister, Bill will give the proverbial next-to-last word to his office, which has been silent witness to nearly a quarter century of ministry.

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/yhs5yv7e>

## "Fare Thee Well"



**Sunday, May 25, 2025, 10:30 a.m.**  
***Rev. Bill Gupton leads this service.***

This morning our Senior Minister, Rev. Bill Gupton, completes his ministry with his final reflection on 23 years of service to this congregation he loves. Join our Choir, our Board, our children and families, church members and friends, and some special guests as we say farewell and thank you to Rev. Bill – and as he bids us farewell. Bring tissues!

Image source: HUUC.net media library

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Congregation "Art Project"



Sunday, June 1, 2025, 10:30 a.m.
The Worship Team leads this service.

The June 1, 2025 Sunday morning worship service will be a time of affirmation of our strength and gifts as a community. The worship team will lead us in a service that considers our journey and calls us to reflect on the emergent beauty and meaning that we create together as our collective life unfolds.

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/4td4rmjp>

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



May 2025

by Rev. Bill Gupton

This is it. This is my final “On the Path.”

“On the Path” has been the name of my newsletter column now in three different churches, stretching back to the very first congregation I served as a newly-ordained minister – the First UU Church of Columbus, in the fall of 1996. It is a title that has worked well for me, because this journey of ministry has truly been an amazing “path.” Often winding, sometimes steep (either up or down), occasionally rocky or slippery, *always* beautiful. In the times when I have been at my best, I’ve been able to bask in the breathtaking scenery, allowing the cup of my heart and soul be filled to overflowing.

For 23 years now, Heritage Church has been my home. My family’s home. This congregation – *you*, and those who have gone before you – have been beloved companions on this, the longest of all the chapters in my journey. I look forward to sharing many fond memories with you in my final two Sunday morning worship services, on May 18 and 25, 2025 as well as at the retirement “open house” party you’re throwing for us on Sunday evening, May 18, 2025 beginning at 5 p.m. I do hope to see each one of you over those last two weekends, or if not, at least at some point earlier in May. Whenever you do encounter me, this month – if you think it might be for the last time, please say so; I want to be able to offer everyone a proper goodbye (including a heartfelt hug).

This is especially important because – and here’s the thing – after that final service on May 25, I will back out of the minister’s parking space, leave the parking lot, and no longer be part of the Heritage community. Nor will Jennifer and Patrick. This is something we know about, understand, and sign up for, from the beginning. Unitarian Universalist ministers agree to a code of conduct and professional ethics that very appropriately includes fully supporting the ministry of our successor. And that ministry can only thrive when there is a healthy closure of the previous minister’s relationship with the congregation and its members.

Thus, by the end of May, I will be fully moved out of my office. I will have said my final goodbyes. I will no longer be involved in your day-to-day lives, or in the life of Heritage Church. I begin *my* next chapter. I will enjoy a few days of rest and relaxation before turning my full professional attention to being the Manager of Heritage Acres Memorial Sanctuary – and to being the *fully retired former* Minister of Heritage Church. I will not come to church, or respond to any church-related calls or emails. For your part, you will have a brief summertime without a minister, and then begin an exciting, promising new relationship with a new minister. All of which is exactly as it should be.

This is not to say it won’t be difficult, even painful, sometimes. I – and my family – will miss you terribly. Our lives will never be the same – nor will yours, or the life of Heritage Church. But you will still have each other. You will still be part of a strong community, a healthy church, with a bright future. And you will

always have the Love that is the Spirit of this church. That Love will include – also always, but from now on in a different way – the energy of my love, for you.

May you and yours be well. May Heritage Church continue to thrive, for generations to come.

I love you,

Rev. Bill Gupton

Image source: A compilation of *On The Path* column featured images from the *Heirloom* dating back to 2004, prepared by B. L. Barnes

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## The President's Corner - May 2025



### Small Screen – Big Joy

*by Jaime Castle*

*HUUC Board of Trustees President*

There are many reasons why people go to “church.” One reason is to find comfort or inspiration. Being a person in this place and time can be scary and exhausting – being a person at just about any time, though, has its challenges. I am often reminded how lucky we are to be alive right here and now. I have been focusing on spreading information about joyful things in hopes that

something that I recommend may help to bring about a little bit of happiness. Finding joy when times are hard is a form of rebellion — in not giving in to despair! I have been using my space here to help people fill their buckets — whether it is useful and fun apps for your phone, or local places to check out.

This month’s column, to help contribute to your mindful choosing of joy as a way of rebellion in difficult times, is to focus on shows found on the small screen that I would like to share with you. I heard or read it somewhere that we are living in the Platinum Era of TV. There are so many options of places to find shows. There is so much monetary spending these days on quality shows from writing to production costs. Gone are the days of my youth when the kids’ shows were only to be found on a certain day of the week, on certain channels, and only in the morning. We have now at our fingertips the ability to choose from so many streaming platforms. We can pause shows and rewind or fast forward. We can watch what we want, when we want, and binge watch entire seasons back-to-back. There are many great scripted comedies to choose from that will make you laugh (and cry), including *Schitt’s Creek*, *The Good Place*, or *Ted Lasso*, but I am going to share with you three shows that you should add to your virtual library that you may not have heard about. Check them out when you need some joy.

From the realm of reality TV is the reboot show *Queer Eye* (a Bravo network show found on Netflix). This is your basic “makeover” show where a person gets a team of specialists to help them improve themselves from learning culinary expertise and lifestyle choices to gaining hairstyle, makeup, and wardrobe updates. The not-so-basic part is that the expert team is made up entirely of queer folks, but the “clients” come from all walks of life. The most beautiful part about this show isn’t the clean-cut, well-dressed reveals at the end of each episode of the people that get the makeover, but rather the humanity revealed throughout the whole process. The team of experts is welcomed, revered, and the way that the people on the receiving



end let themselves be vulnerable is so touching. If every person in the world were given this kind of love and attention, I imagine that the people of this world would all be kind and thoughtful to each other and to themselves.

Another show from the reality TV realm also found on Netflix is brand new and is called *With Love, Meghan*. The title of this show is indicative of a sign-off of a letter to a beloved friend and the author of this hypothetical letter is Meghan Markle (the receiver of this letter is you.) If you are not familiar with Meghan, she is also known as the Duchess of Sussex, or the wife of Prince Harry of England. If you are not familiar with her story, it is important to know that she hasn't had a fairytale princess experience, but rather has endured a lot of hate, racism, and undeserved toxic and abusive treatment from many. If you do not know anything about her and simply watch her show, you would not know that she had faced any trials.

This show has a Martha Stewart-like joy of entertaining vibe, where she shares recipes for dishes or shares DIY steps for things like crafting bath soaking salts, or candle-making, or tea satchels. Each episode she creates experiences to share with special guests – often just beloved friends of hers, always with a glimpse of her sweet little beagle dog, Guy. It is the truly authentic feeling of love that sticks with you when you watch. Everything is so idyllic from the scenic gardens to the label-less ingredient containers and clean décor, but she keeps things grounded by pausing to appreciate and recognize the beauty and by being grateful continuously. Her love for her guests is palpable and we, watching along, feel that love extended to us.

*Station Eleven* is a single-season, stand-alone story streaming on HBO/Max and is based on the dystopian novel by Emily St. John Mandel. It is set in the North American Great Lakes Region (US and Canada) starting in the early 2000's and then jumping 20 years. A fun fact is that the pilot episode was filmed in the late months of 2019 and the beginning of 2020 before the Covid-19 pandemic hit the non-fictional world. The show's premise is that a deadly, super-contagious virus has wiped out the majority of the population. The survivors have to make sense of this new world and redefine what it is to be human which includes the capacity to create art instead of war. It's interesting to see how they (the show's creators) imagined this pandemic unfolding because we would soon witness an actual pandemic hitting.

Why, you may ask, do I think that a story like this would spark joy? There is one scene in the book and in the TV version when a character is trying to remember how good a cappuccino is. There is another part when a character is explaining how people used to have refrigerators and that they would keep food cold and a light would turn on inside when you opened it. I remember stopping by a coffee shop to buy a cappuccino after reading that part – relishing in the awesomeness of it and the gratitude that I could experience it. I remember being thankful for my refrigerator. I find reading or watching dystopian stories makes me appreciate and fight to preserve the wondrous world that we have now.

It is not selfish to seek joy and to shelter in your place and get lost in these stories. It is imperative to feel alive and just feel, in general. Keep fighting, friends, and keep finding joy! You are worthy of love and joy is all around you!

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/mu6yaunk> and compiled by B.L. Barnes

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I Wonder. . .



Where Do You Experience the Bittersweet in Your Life?

by Laci Lee Adams

HUUC Director of Lifespan Faith Development

When you have a dog with serious allergies and a child and spouse with asthma, spring is a bittersweet time of the year. I know that many of you know what I am talking about because no Sunday goes by without one or several references to allergies and their consequences! But, most of us would not take a pass

on spring because we don't like pollen. There's a balance and a blessing to the bittersweet. The sweet helps us to engage with the bitter!

Many of the lessons of Passover highlight the bittersweet. One element on the Seder plate is charoset -- a sweet mixture of apples, nuts, and wine. It is supposed to symbolize the bricks that the Israelites were forced to make during slavery in Egypt. A sweet treat to symbolize slavery? Well . . . one theme of Passover is to remember slavery while celebrating freedom. Knowing that where there is bitterness there is also the potential for/ the hope for/ the drive for the sweet.

There are so many other places where we experience the bitter sweet, from foods to funerals, in the lives of our children, and in the communities in which we gather. I am starting to think that bittersweet is the true taste of a life lived fully.

Where have you tasted the bittersweetness of life? What have those moments revealed to you?

Image source: word cloud created by B. L. Barnes

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## **A Letter to Heritage from the HUUC Treasurer**



**by Rebecca Pace, HUUC Treasurer & Board of Trustees Member**

**Dear Heritage members and friends,**

As HUUC Treasurer, I need to let you know about a serious situation facing our church. You might call it a "perfect storm." Our congregation is currently in a cash crunch resulting from recent developments beyond our control. The HUUC Board of Trustees is working on various solutions. We will discuss assorted resolution alternatives during the Sunday, May 4, 2025

congregational town hall meeting held in the sanctuary and on Zoom directly following the morning worship service. In this letter, I want to provide everyone with the background that led to our current dilemma, leaving the "where we go from here" discussions for the May 4 meeting.

We started this fiscal year (FY 2024-2025) in a good monetary position. We had \$34,000 in our checking account and \$113,000 in reserves, not to mention nearly \$100,000 in the endowment fund. However, we've had some challenges, changes, and unexpected expenses that have drained our reserves and we still have bills to pay.

The financial outlays needs, created by numerous different causes, fall into five groups.

1. Unexpected Repairs (including the roof, road sign, and sound amplifier)
2. Ministerial Search Expenses
3. Fundraising Shortfalls
4. Security Upgrade Projects Grants Reimbursement Delays (Doors & Cameras)
5. Employee Retention Credit Reimbursement Delays

Of course, we are always looking for the most cost-effective solutions to these situations. As previously mentioned, possible problem-solving will be discussed at the May 4, 2025 town hall meeting. Until then, let me explain all of these outlays in more detail and how they lead to our current situation.

### **1. Unexpected Repairs:**

Recently and unexpectedly, we experienced the need for three costly repairs.

First, we were told we needed to spend \$50,000 to replace our roof. However, we called in other contractors, and repaired the leaking kitchen roof for \$5,800.

Second, you may remember that the lighted sign by the road produced a random pattern of lights and could not be repaired. A replacement would have cost thousands of dollars, but Susan Conley came up with a creative way to renovate the sign for only about \$500.

Third, you may have been in the sanctuary during the Sunday morning service when the sound amplifier blew out with a loud pop. We had to replace that speaker at a cost of \$2,700.

These payments were partially and temporarily financed by delaying the Sharing Our Abundance payments, a sum which grew to \$5,800. This figure now must be paid. The goal is to have that balance paid in full by June 30.

### **2. Ministerial Search Expenses:**

This spring, we've also begun to incur some expenses in our search for a new minister, when Bill Gupton retires next month. We decided not to take the UUA route, which would have been very expensive, but we didn't want to do a Minister Search alone. We entered a contract with experienced consultants. We've made some token payments on their contract, but we need to complete their \$18,000 payment schedule in early summer.

### **3. Fundraising Shortfalls:**

The fundraising goals, set last year, were overly optimistic. In spite of a phenomenal rummage sale, our fundraising activities are about \$12,000 short of our goal.



#### **4. Security Upgrade Projects Grants Reimbursement Delays (Doors & Cameras):**

You may remember, we were awarded a \$147,000 FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) security grant in October 2023. We began getting bids and incurred some expenses. We submitted our paperwork and received reimbursement as promised. We were comfortable with the process.

We had a congregational meeting in August 2024 to approve a \$98,000 contract with the door vendor, LaForce. We made the 50% down payment, \$49,000, in September of that year, expecting delivery in November. Still, the doors were not delivered until March. Finally, the installation is almost complete.

While we were waiting on the doors, we started work on another FEMA grant project, the security cameras. That work was completed in February, and the reimbursement request for about \$23,000 was submitted in March.

From our experience with the process, we expected the reimbursements turn-around to take about three weeks. We expected reimbursement for the \$23,000 for the cameras project in April, with sufficient time to add to cash on hand and pay on time for the doors project. We expected the final \$98,000 reimbursement by June.

On April 7, 2025, I received an e-mail from our grant specialist. He said he had learned that although he was never told funds were frozen, there was a "review" that could delay funding. His e-mail said, "We don't envision wholesale cancellation of awards, but nothing is ever guaranteed in this environment. We do anticipate reimbursement times going from about 20 days on average to three to four months."

Our contract with the door vendor requires payment on completion. I have spoken with their finance chief who has agreed to give us extra time, but we must pay all contractors and vendors in full by the end of November. If we choose to reduce the scope of the work (perhaps by having volunteers paint and finish the trim) we would be out of compliance with the terms of the grant and would not qualify for *any* reimbursement on this project.

We are now faced with our payment obligations for the door installation contract and related work to complete the project totaling \$64,800.

#### **5. Employee Retention Credit Reimbursement Delays:**

Our payroll service, Paychex, submitted five payroll-quarter claims for the Employee Retention Credit on our behalf. These claims, totaling \$49,000, were submitted on September 14, 2023. That happened to be the same day the IRS placed a moratorium on processing these claims. The moratorium has been lifted, so you would think that our claim would be at the top of the stack. However, after months of no word from Paychex or the IRS, in early April, 2025 I received an e-mail from Paychex informing me that the IRS had no record of one claim. New claims are now disallowed, so Paychex is appealing and has sent the IRS proof of timely delivery of the original claims.

I believe we will eventually get paid for both the FEMA Grant and the Employee Retention Credit, but not this year. In the meantime, our reserves are gone and we have bills to pay.

Please join us at our town hall meeting Sunday, May 4, 2025 after the morning service in the sanctuary or on Zoom, to talk about possible solutions such as a short-term loan, a mortgage, help from the endowment fund, and/or cutting expenses so that we can carry our community forward. More details will be available

at the May 4 town hall meeting. We will vote on our budget and any possible loans at the June 1 congregational meeting. Our financial statements are on our website — HUUC.net.

Sincerely,

Rebecca A. Pace, CPA  
HUUC Treasurer and Board of Trustees Member

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/9s95f86c>

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Gratitude



by Rev. Bill Lyon

Words cannot adequately express my appreciation for the Love offered by my dear friends at Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church on the day of my ordination.

Those of you who attended in person and online felt it, I am sure. What may not have been evident were countless hours preparing for this day.

Singers and speakers, flower arrangers, chair movers, food preparers, tech gurus, wine glass filler-uppers, and so many more came together – as we always do at Heritage.

I must specifically name four individuals who served as my Ordination Committee: Rae Jane Araujo, Joann Meyer, John Sandman, and Erin Walczewski. You are truly amazing – especially the way you roped in some much other help. Well done!

But to everyone in the Heritage family – Thank You!

In Faith and Community,

Rev. Bill Lyon

Images source: Lisa Gibson used with permission

Announcements

New Town Hall Meeting May 4, 2025



A brief town hall meeting will be sandwiched in between the Sunday, May 4, 2025 morning worship service and the potluck lunch. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary and on Zoom, extending the worship service's Zoom coverage to include the meeting. The purpose of the town hall meeting is to discuss several issues related to the security grant. All HUUC members are requested to attend.

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/3b8tw2ca>

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## No Potluck Lunch on April 13, 2025, Date Change for May's Lunch



Due to the extremely busy day at Heritage on April 13, 2025, the normally scheduled potluck lunch will not occur. Please join us for our Sunday potluck when it resumes on May 4, 2025, a week earlier than usual so we can attend the area UU service on May 11, 2025.

Image source: HUUC.net media library

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Annual Meeting June 1, 2025, 8:30 a.m.



Heritage Church members are encouraged to attend and participate in our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, June 1, 2025 starting at 8:30 a.m. We will provide the option for participation either in-person within the sanctuary or via a Zoom link distributed close to the meeting date. 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 2025-26. 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. Members, we need you! Please plan to attend this meeting June 1, 2025, from 8:30 a.m., at Heritage UU Church or via Zoom.

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

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## Add Your Wisdom to our OWL Parliament!



OWL (Our Whole Lives) is a value and ethics based sexuality education program available for all ages (Kindergarten to Older Adults).

City-wide OWL is planning to offer both Jr. High (7th to 9th graders) and Sr. High (9th to 12th graders) OWL this coming fall. We are seeking new teachers/facilitators to make that happen!

We are so excited to offer facilitator training for teachers of both age groups the weekend of [June 6-8th](#). If you are interested in helping lead OWL in the fall and want to find out more

information about what is involved, please email Laci Adams at [dlfdhuuc@gmail.com](mailto:dlfdhuuc@gmail.com)

Not able to join the team yourself, but have a suggestion? Please feel free to share your thoughts and suggestions with Laci, as well. We appreciate your support!

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/24nr65wz>

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Caring for Our Space Sets the Tone



How we care for our building — especially our kitchen — sets the tone in terms of how we care for each other and for our guests.

A clean, efficient, and welcoming kitchen can encourage harmony between congregants and guests. A clean kitchen can boost morale and certainly hygiene.

Remember there are no magical beings that come in and clean the kitchen. Spills in the refrigerator create unhealthy and unsightly mold! Please take pride in our building and leave it cleaner than you found it!

If you notice someone struggling with cleanliness or order, instead of criticizing or reprimanding them, offer guidance and support. Encourage them and acknowledge their efforts. Leading with kindness and understanding can make a significant impact. Laughter is the best detergent; try sprinkling some humor to encourage cleanliness.

Please also consider ways to be as "green" as possible with your food offerings in accordance with our UUA Green Sanctuary status. Please do not bring single-use water bottles, plastics, or Styrofoam cups into HUUC. Remember the mantra "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" has "recycle" as the final step.

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/5n6c9wec>

Ministries

April 29, 2025 Social Justice Collaborative Meeting



Tuesday, April 29, 2025

7 p.m. — Online via Zoom.

<https://zoom.us/j/6042345097?pwd=d2FCTnpxdHdmSzdKUTFWOcTMbmNLdz09&omn=99477019260>

Immigration and the new administration's policies were a big focus of the March 2025 meeting of Heritage UU Church's Social Justice Collaborative. Topics ranged from the status of the Haitian community in Springfield, to workshops to understand the complicated immigration legal process, to reasserting the right of immigrants not to be apprehended while receiving sanctuary in a house of worship.

The HUUC Social Justice Collaborative meeting topics included:

- Racial Justice
- Housing and Homelessness
- Indigenous Peoples
- Immigration
- Climate Change
- Government Reform
- Activities in UU Organizations

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, online via Zoom with the above link. All Heritage members and friends are invited to attend.

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Louise Lawarre or Mimi Sinclair.

Louise Lawarre - May meeting leader:

louiselawarre@yahoo.com

Mimi Sinclair - May agenda and communications:

mimisinclair@me.com

Photo Caption: Rev. Bill Gupton and other Heritage Church members join in an immigration-related rally on September 5, 2017.

Photo Credit: Russ Araujo.

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## Found House Needs Volunteers in May



**Sunday May 4 - May 11, 2025**  
**St. John's UU Church**  
**320 Resor Ave., Cincinnati, OH**

St. John's UU Church will host homeless families from Sunday, May 4 until the morning of Sunday May 11, 2025. Volunteers are needed for dinner, entertainment, and overnight hosting during that period.

Access the SignUpGenius link below to help with this valuable ministry.

<https://tinyurl.com/mvy7bhzu>

Image source: <https://www.foundhouse.org/>

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Immigrant Assistance Cards - Rights and ID



Two local organizations (Ignite Peace and MARCC) are offering assistance to immigrants regarding their rights and needs for an ID.

According to their website (<https://ignitepeace.org/>), Ignite Peace is a Cincinnati based organization (formerly known as Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center) that educates and advocates for peace, challenges unjust systems, and promotes the creation of nonviolent society. Ignite Peace is offering a free, downloadable cards listing immigrant right to hand out or leave in places where immigrants might find them. These "Red Cards"

are available at <https://ignitepeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Know-Your-Rights-Cards.pdf>

MARCC (Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati) (<https://marcconline.com/>) is a coalition of 14 Jewish, Roman Catholic, Muslim, Protestant, Unitarian-Universalist organizations that collaborate together on a few local social concerns to improve life for the people of Metropolitan Cincinnati. They are offering Identification cards. According to their website, "The (MARCC) community identification (ID) card will improve the potential for individuals to be recognized and provided with equal protection and due process under the law and receive governmental services in Cincinnati. The MARCC ID card is for any resident who may have limited access to government issued forms of identification." For more information see <https://cincinnati-latino.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/09.15.2018-MARCC-ID-Flyer.pdf>.

Images sources: <https://ignitepeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Know-Your-Rights-Cards.pdf> and <https://marcconline.com/>

Community Events

Indigenous Film Screening



Tuesday, May 6, 2025
7 - 9 p.m. in the Heritage Room

The Indigenous Issues group will gather to watch "Drunktown's Finest," a feature film from 2014 that follows three young Native Americans - an adopted Native girl, a young father-to-be, and a trans woman who dreams of being a model - as they wrestle with their relationship with their Navajo home and relations. The film illuminates the impacts of colonialism on the Navajo nation while affirming the continued vitality of Navajo culture.

A segment from the program 20/20 focusing on Gallup, New Mexico titled "Drunk Town USA" inspired writer-director Freeland to make the film. Sydney Freeland is a member of the Navajo Nation and is also known for "Reservation Dogs" (2021) and "Rez Ball" (2024). "Drunktown's Finest" won several awards including

Best Film at the American Indian Film Festival in 2014.

For questions or more information, contact Mimi Sinclair at
mimisinclair@me.com

Link to trailer: <https://tinyurl.com/ywpcpd2a>

Image source: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt3091286/?ref=tt_mv_close

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### Rev. Bill Gupton Retirement Open House, May 18, 2025



Reverend Bill Gupton will be retiring after 23 years as our Senior Minister. We plan to give him a heartfelt sendoff at an Open House Celebration Sunday, May 18, 2025, 5 - 8 p.m. in the HUUC Great Hall. Please come to join in thanking him, in acknowledging his accomplishments, and to wish him well on his future endeavors. If you have not already done so, please RSVP to Donna Buckley at

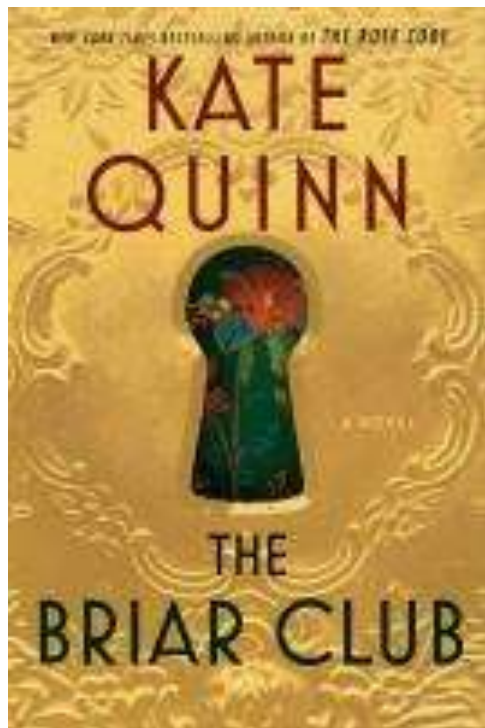
[donnabuckley7@gmail.com](mailto:donnabuckley7@gmail.com)

Ann Jarboe is coordinating food and drink for this event. If you would like to contribute, please coordinate with Ann by May 8, 2025 so we have a good assortment of appetizers and desserts. Contact Ann at

[ann.looneyjarboe@gmail.com](mailto:ann.looneyjarboe@gmail.com)

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A McCarthy Era, Washington DC Boarding House



May 21, 2025

7 - 9 p.m. in the Heritage Room

The Babes with Books or BWB (Heritage's woman's book club) moves into a McCarthy era, Washington DC boarding house that also houses a secret with their May 21 meeting selection *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn. People magazine describes this novel with the comments that, "Quinn evocatively balances the outward cheerfulness of the 1950s with historical observations exploring racism, misogyny, homophobia, and political persecution in this sharply drawn, gripping novel." Whereas Amazon.com completes their description with "Capturing the paranoia of the McCarthy era and evoking the changing roles for women in postwar America, *The Briar Club* is an intimate and thrilling novel of secrets and loyalty put to the test."

The current reading selections for BWB upcoming meetings are as follows:

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

July 16, 2025 - *Someone Else's Shoes*, by Jojo Moyes & pool party/potluck

August 20, 2025 - *That Summer* by Jennifer Weiner & pool party/potluck

September 17, 2025 - *We All Live Here*, by Jojo Moyes

October 15, 2025 - *Real Americans*, by Rachel Khong

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.

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## Heritage Fundraiser Concert June 7, 2025



**7:00 - ~ 8:45 p.m. June 7, 2025  
in the Heritage Sanctuary  
Admission - \$20**

Friction Farm, a husband/wife musical duo, will headline this fundraising concert for HUUC. Friction Farm combines storytelling, social commentary, and humor to create songs of everyday life, local heroes, and quirky observations.

According to the group's website, "Friction Farm's lyrically rich, harmony-driven songs have earned them spots as Kerrville New Folk Finalists and Falcon Ridge Emerging Artists. They are winners of the South Florida folk Festival songwriter competition, have performed as official showcase artists at Regional Folk Alliance Conferences. Friction Farm feels at home on the road and on stage. Audiences lean into their stories, laugh at their humor, are inspired to do a little good in the world, and sing along once in a while."

Since Friction Farm likes to read a lot, they released a CD of songs inspired by books. To promote literacy among children under age ten, Friction Farm has also written and recorded a collection of songs inspired by children's books.

Enjoy a taste of their very relevant songs for our times by accessing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2N3JeoXFses>  
Their CDs are available on their website, cited below.

Tickets for this performance can be obtained at the door or ahead of the date at:  
<https://huuc.breezechms.com/form/5cf7ea>

Save the date for what promises to be a wonderful evening.

For more information, check out the duo's website at <https://frictionfarm.com/> or contact Valerie DuBay at:

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

Images source: <https://frictionfarm.com/promo-tools/>

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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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# STEAM Classroom Antics Summer Camp Returns June 30, 2025



From June 30 to July 3, 2025, the annual robotics, video game, coding, and animation Classroom Antics STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) camp returns to Heritage. Classroom Antics offers five-star rated STEAM summer camps for kids ages 7 - 14. The program offers something for everyone, including Minecraft, VEX Robotics, LEGOs, Roblox, and more!

Classroom Antics is offering eight unique in-person enrichment programs for the 2025 summer camp season. Each STEAM program is specifically tailored to kids in varying age groups, at different times during the day.

Classroom Antics advantages include: professional educators, small class sizes, dedicated materials and equipment, close to home, a positive experience, and technology used.



For details and registration, visit <https://www.classroomantics.com/camp-locations/cincinnati-summer-camps/summer-tech-camps-in-anderson-twp-ohio/>.

Image source: <https://www.classroomantics.com/camp-locations/cincinnati-summer-camps/summer-tech-camps-in-anderson-twp-ohio/>

## 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:

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

Image source: Canva

## Celebrate the Mystery



**HUUC Annual Women's Retreat  
Friday to Sunday, September 26 - 28, 2025  
at Hope Springs Institute  
4988 Mineral Springs Rd, Peebles, OH 45660**

If you are a woman friend or member of HUUC, you are *in* the sisterhood. This is *your* retreat. What do you desire this year? What can you offer this year?

The HUUC sisterhood has held 15 years of retreats at Hope Springs. We will "Celebrate the Mystery" with crafts, song, dance, yoga, sacred walking, sharing, fireside chats, and *lots* of laughter. We welcome all who identify as women friends and members of HUUC for days of deep diving in sisterly community. You are always at choice in deciding your participation level.

The price is \$320 for all lodging and meals from Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon, September 26 - 28, 2025. Scholarships are available. A deposit of \$100 is due June 1, 2025, payable to Julie Kane by check written to HUUC. The full, non-refundable payment is due August 31, 2025. Contact Ellie Lamb, Laura Palmer, April Theriot, or Tracy Jo Small for more details.



Images source: courtesy of Tracy Jo Small

# Support

## Our Giving Supports Our Growing



As with any pledge drive, we have a number of key priorities to fund in our new church fiscal year that will begin on July 1, 2025. But this year is different, and it is special. We have one, overriding priority that will guide our efforts and raise the bar for us as congregation. That priority is our ministerial transition, which we are kicking off just as we kick off the pledge drive itself.

We have sustained and grown this congregation during an era when other UU congregations in the Cincinnati area have struggled. We are now the second largest UU congregation in Cincinnati with if not the largest, then certainly the fastest

growing Religious Education program in the city. We are the premiere representative of Universalism in the entire region. We have a lot to be proud of and a lot to be excited about as we seek to bring a new minister into our congregation.

From a financial standpoint, we also have much to celebrate. We have maintained a robust series of fundraising efforts at the same time that we have successfully competed for grant money to improve our facility. But, there is no doubt that our pledged giving provides the vast majority of the financial support that sustains the daily life of our congregation.

As we initiate the process of recruiting a new minister to lead us in our spiritual journey, we must plan for a number of costs that are not usually in our yearly budget. We are hiring a transition consultant firm to guide us in our efforts, and we must anticipate possible expenses such as moving costs for a new minister joining our congregation from outside of our region. Of course, we would also like to give our existing staff raises to acknowledge their value to us in a time of rising costs. We would like to modestly increase our RE budget, and we would also like to expand our Children's Music Director involvement in the life of our congregation from eight times a year to every month.

All of these elements taken together mean that we have a big ask for all of our pledging members and friends. We are requesting a 15% increase in pledged giving for the 2025-2026 church year. This increase will raise our total pledge income to \$258,000.

If you are new to our congregation, you can learn more about our congregation and our pledging statistics, such as average pledges and Fair Share Giving, by visiting our Stewardship website at <https://huuc.net/stewardship/>. When you are ready to pledge, you will find the pledge form at the bottom of the Stewardship website or you can go directly to the pledge form via this link: <https://huuc.breezechms.com/form/2025-2026-pledge-form>.

Many thanks to those who have already pledged, and thanks to everyone in our congregation for carefully considering your level of pledged giving to support the continued growth and vitality of our congregation.

Yours in faith and service,  
Reid  
Reid Hester, HUUC Stewardship Chair

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/yum75pr2>

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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

- **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

Improv Fundraising Dinner a Hit!



Laughter, flowers, and food were present in abundance on the last Saturday in March. Two dozen adventurous beings showed up ready to say “Yes and...” This auction fundraiser produced \$600 for HUUC. Julie Kane and Tracy Jo provided assorted crostini and antipasta, eggplant parmesan, baked ziti, salad with foraged flowers, cannoli cake, Italian Easter ricotta pie along with limoncello, and various wines and spritzers.

This was not a night of classic stand-up comedy Improv. It was light-hearted night of storytelling, brain-teasers and simple techniques led by Tracy Jo. Jen Ciolino and Sherry McCanley graciously contributed a few Improv games. It was a time of connection through laughter and team building. We all learned something new about everyone there. It may become an annual event!

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

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### Rev. Bill Lyon Ordained by HUUC & UUCL



An overflowing crowd of well-wishers, a choir of over 20 voices, a team of ten religious professionals, Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church (HUUC), Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington (UUCL), and dozens of online viewers participated in the ordination of Bill Lyon on Sunday, April 13, 2025 at HUUC, followed by a lavish reception in the Great Hall.

For those who missed it or who want to revisit the ceremony, here are links you may find interesting:

- Order of Service - <https://tinyurl.com/LyonOrdinationProgram>
- Video of the ceremony - (1.5 hours) - <https://tinyurl.com/LyonOrdinationVideo>
- Photo slideshow of the ceremony - (8 min) - <https://tinyurl.com/LyonOrdinationSlideshow>

The following group, composed of now colleagues from Bill's road to the ministry, each conducted a different aspect of the ceremony.

- Rev. Bill Gupton - Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church Senior Minister- Welcome / Laying on of Hands



- Rev. Bruce Beisner - All Peoples Unitarian Universalist Congregation Senior Minister - Call to Worship
- Rev. Sharon Dittmar - UUA Congregational Life Consultant - Greetings from the UUA
- Laci Lee Adams - Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church Director of Lifespan Faith Development - Greetings from our Youth
- Rabbi Julie Schwartz - Clinical Pastoral Education Center Director at Jewish Hospital - Interfaith Prayer
- Rev. Angeline Jackson - UU Church of Davis, California - Call to Offering
- Rev. Dr. Lee Barker - President Emeritus of Meadville Lombard Theological School - Sermon
- Rev. Dr. Doak Mansfield - HUUC Minister Emeritus - Collegial Welcome
- Rev. Dr. Brian Chenoweth - UUCL Senior Minister - Charge to Minister
- Rev. Mitra Jafarazadeh - St. John's retired minister and consultant - Prayer & Silence

Thanks to all who made this a special occasion for Bill, his family and friends, and the two UU congregations.



Images source: Lisa Gibson used with permission

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HUUC Board Briefs for April 2025



The Heritage UU Church Board of Trustees met on April 14, 2025. The following summarizes their activities.

1. Please plan to attend an important town hall meeting on May 4, 2025 to discuss the church finances.
2. Through a combination of factors, we found ourselves behind on paying out our commitments to our weekly Sharing Our Abundance recipients. The Board voted to pay out our currently outstanding commitments as soon as possible, as well

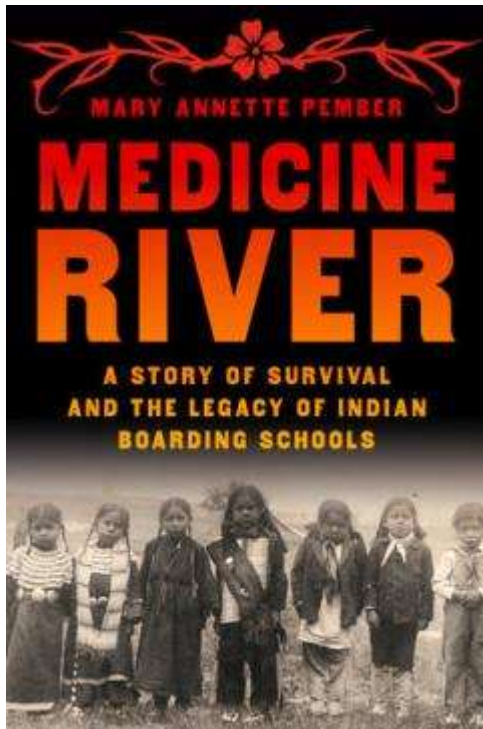
as instituted a policy of distributing any future Sharing Our Abundance funds within 15 days of the service in which the offering is collected.

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/>

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## HUUC Member Mary Pember Releases Book



Heritage member Mary Pember launched the release of her book, *Medicine River, A Story of Survival and the Legacy of Indian Boarding Schools* on April 22, 2025 at Joseph Beth Books in Oakley. Mary Annette Pember is an independent journalist focusing on Native American issues.

Amazon.com describes the book as, "A sweeping and trenchant exploration of the history of Native American boarding schools in the United States, and the legacy of abuse wrought by them in an attempt to destroy Native culture and life."

Editorial reviews on Amazon.com indicate that this book is one of the New York Times' nonfiction books to read this spring. It is a most anticipated book by The Minneapolis Star Tribune, Ms. Magazine, The Orange County Register, and Electric Literature.

Publisher's Weekly starred review indicated that the book is "A devastating history. . . . Weaving into her narrative her own mother's experiences . . . Pember explores the psychological ramifications the schools had on subsequent generations. She comes to many quietly ruinous insights about the emotional neglect she herself suffered at the hands of her wounded mother. . . . Concluding with a searing call for accountability, this

strikes a chord."

Image source: <https://images.randomhouse.com/cover/9780553387315>

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New Minister Search Progress



Quietly and behind the scenes, the Transitions Team, lead by Jaime Castle, has been diligently laying the groundwork on how to meet with potential candidates in the coming weeks. The team is crafting what information they wish to learn from the new minister candidates during the upcoming interviews to assure the best, great fit for our needs. Due to the required confidentiality of the process, how many and who the candidates are cannot be shared. Future updates will be released whenever possible as they become available. Stay tuned!

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/3448ey6k>

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## Security Upgrade Update



You may have noticed recently some subtle and some obvious changes to the Heritage physical facility. These changes include new security cameras and new doors as part of our involvement in a nonprofit security grant program.

Sixteen high-resolution, motion-detecting cameras are now installed in and around our building with video back-up and real-time views available on a computer or cell phone. All the equipment and cabling is installed, vendors have been paid. We

have submitted for \$23k reimbursement from Ohio EMA.

Many new, more secure, sturdy doors of hollow metal with tempered safety glass have been installed. We still have paint, final touches, and repairs to make, but the new doors, locks, and the key fob system have been installed and hooked back up to our existing alarms. There are now just three access points to the building. Classroom and Heritage Room doors are “exit only” and the sliding glass doors in the Sanctuary have been replaced with proper swinging exit doors. We paid a \$49k down-payment in September 2024 for the new doors. We now owe approximately \$70k. Once that is paid, we can apply for Ohio EMA reimbursement.

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/yp6udjdt>

## Creativity Corner

### The Creativity Corner "Change" Challenge



Winston Churchill once said, "To improve is to change, to be perfect is to change often." Easier said than done, most of us would think. Change is our constant challenging companion, yet we often fear, or fight, or flee from its efforts. These emotional responses make it a ripe topic for submissions to the Creativity Corner in the *Heirloom's* April 2025 edition.

The collection on the theme of "Change" consists of original poetry and prose created by Heritage congregants on this wide topic relating to each and all of us in a variety of circumstances.

Image source: Created by B.L. Barnes



### **Change** by Valerie DuBay

here's the thing about change....

for many, it truly sucks!

So, in the midst of all this craziness, all this change

remember to remember the  
flowers  
remember the bees  
the redbuds....

remember that it is  
Hopefulness  
that Nature provides for us

every Spring, in the form of  
Aliveness, Strength, and Beauty

we can choose to take this  
Hopefulness within

working harmoniously together is a requirement  
as well, for a Blessed Life

Nature knows this

So, Rise Up!  
nurture and encourage Joy!  
continue Dancing!  
keep on with your extraordinary, unique  
and unrepeatable Life!

keep loving, keep listening, keep giving,  
keep forgiving!

All of this is crucial

for Love to remain Alive and Well

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/5y8stm65>

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The Nature of Change *by Barbara L. Barnes*

Change is frustrating and annoying.
No matter my efforts, coins obey gravity, falling into my purse's deep pit, adding pounds to my load.
When paying a bill, I blindly mine and probe my bag's depths, never unearthing the correct coinage.

The checkout counter's "take a penny/leave one" tray stymies me. Dare I take one? Should I leave one? I confuse cashiers; I pay a \$1.98 tab with two dollars three pennies, efficiently exchanged for one nickel. Blame today's schools for not teaching the arithmetic of currency weight reduction.

Change is upbeat and fun.

It fuels one-armed bandits plying giddy games of chance in casinos — using currency often viewed as trivial, given that it won't fold.

Still, piggy banks grow fat on the coerced contributions from grannies and aunties.

A toddler wheedles from doting elders the big silver coins rather than orange ones for the stash — his destiny secured as the successful investor who he will become.

Change is hard and daunting.

It is as solid and unyielding as a diamond without the sparkle.

The hardest change isn't coinage but life passages —

change not pressed from precious metals but knit from clouds, fog, and mist.

Change hides around the bend, past the horizon, past the view. It is dark, scary, chilling.

Even positive change creates unease, worry, and angst.

Change creating fear is weak and worthless.

Let gravity pull your change down to your purse's darkest depths. It will do so, regardless of your efforts.

Trust that you will mine sufficient metallic change as needed when life's changes arise,

or perhaps you'll find that helpful "take a penny" tray compensating for the shortfall.

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/mvc4a2hj>

From the Archives

Rev. Bill's Heritage Accomplishments



by Mike Roberts, HUUC Church Historian

During the tenure of Reverend Bill Gupton, one of his major accomplishments as well as that of the congregation was the remodeling and renovation project on the Heritage 26 year old church structure. These forward movements included the innovation of the kitchen, sanctuary nursery, pre nursery, preschool and religious education rooms, and other religious activities.

The Kitchen — congregation initiated the kitchen renovation program in 2011. However, recommendations were initiated as early as 2008 that a building improvement campaign must begin soon. Prospects for the project were put forth in 2011 and were approved by the membership at the May 2012 Annual Meeting. A "Building for the Future" program was

presented to the membership and included these areas to be addressed. "A newly remodeled and expanded kitchen will not only be more functional and comfortable for our use, but will also make the space more attractive for potential rentals. Developed by a task force of Heritage members assisted by

kitchen and renovation professionals, the new kitchen plan includes improved traffic flow and space allocation as well as updated appliances and facilities.”

The Chapel — “Facing the woods adjacent to the Heritage Room, the new chapel will provide a sacred space for quiet reflection. With an open, glassed-in view of nature filtered light through colored upper-level windows, and flexible furnishings, the room will comfortably accommodate adult religious education, the church library (including a music storage area), meetings, and special events. ”

The Sanctuary — “The worship experience will be improved substantially by a few modest improvements to the sanctuary. Most notably, the chancel at the front of the sanctuary will be raised one step above current floor level, improving visibility and enhancing the choir seating area and the space for other musical options and guest presentations. Vertical blinds will allow light to be controlled, and an assistive listening system will make services more accessible to those with hearing impairments. Current carpeting will be replaced.”

Nursery, Preschool, and Religious Education Rooms — “To accommodate the kitchen expansion, the nursery and preschool rooms will be remodeled. Child-appropriate, built-in storage will be added, and a new exterior door will lead directly to a fenced toddler play area. The toddlers’ restroom will be updated. The current Heritage Room will be repurposed for children’s education, with the historic and commemorative materials in the Heritage Room relocated to the new Chapel.”

Restrooms — “Current restrooms will be updated with new toilets and, as needed, new tile. In addition, a new handicapped-accessible restroom will be added. In addition to meeting the Americans with Disabilities Act, the gender-neutral new restroom will have a changing table and a fold-down toddler seat in order to serve as a Family Restroom.”

Roadside Sign and Parking Lot — “A new roadside sign— key to communicating our presence to passersby— will incorporate a changeable electronic message board. The existing parking lot will be repaired and updated.”

Worship Technology — “In the contemporary world, an effective audio-visual system is a key component of a meaningful worship service. Updates are needed to the current system at Heritage, but the Board and the Worship Committee recognize the need for ongoing flexibility in responding to technological changes and worship trends. To this end, we will establish an ongoing Worship Technology Fund to be expended as needed by a Worship Technology Task Force.”

Endowment Fund — “A security blanket for emergencies, a source of investment income, a deep pocket for special opportunities: endowment funds are in many ways the key to financial stability. Essentially a savings account, an endowment fund enables a church to withstand the unexpected and to manage growth. The Board is committed to increasing the size of Heritage’s endowment, and including an endowment component in our current project will enable people with a special interest in financial stability to contribute to a permanent safety net that the church can rely upon. Solid investment plus a mindful commitment to bequests and memorial giving will ensure that the Endowment Fund keeps growing along with our congregation.”

With final approval, work was begun on the renovation when Dennis O’Keefe drove a sledge hammer into the wall of the RE room in May 2013. The opening blow was part of a celebration of the project led by Lisa

Williams, Campaign Chair and Susan Conley, Project Manager. Louise Lawarre was also heavily involved as Board President.



Images captions: featured graphic - major donor Dennis O'Keefe initiates the kitchen update, Ending graphic - Rev. Bill Gupton thanks Dennis for the donation.

Image source: Courtesy of Mike Roberts

The Wider UU World

Universalist Convocation Announces Monthly Vesper Service



The Universalist Convocation is launching a new, free, monthly, evening online vesper service to be held on the first Wednesday of the month. Each service will have a different topic and presenter. Shown below is the current schedule. Obtain a one-time necessary Zoom link registration at <https://universalistconvocation.org/monthly-vesper-schedule/>

The Dana Vespers - April 2, 2025,

8 p.m. Eastern, 45 minutes, followed by open discussion, Presenter: Rev. Richard Trudeau

Content: How the Universalist church in Dana, Massachusetts responded to the destruction of their town.

What is Universalism - May 7, 2025,

8 p.m. Eastern, 45 minutes, followed by open discussion, Presenter: Rev. Justin Lapoint

Content: After a brief history, we will discuss Universalism of the present day.

The Universal and the Human - June 4, 2025,

8 p.m. Eastern, 45 minutes, followed by open discussion, Presenter: Rev. Derek Parker

Content: What does it mean to be human? People have been wrestling with this question for as long as there have been people. Can we come to a universal religious view of our humanity? What is at stake in these questions?

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

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## UUA Announces 2025 GA Ware Lecturer - Imara Jones



The UUA has announced that the revered position as the 2025 General Assembly Ware lecturer has been granted to Imara Jones, visionary, journalist, and changemaker.

According to the UUA press release, "Each year, the UUA President invites a visionary leader to share their wisdom as the Ware Lecturer at General Assembly—and we're thrilled to announce that **Imara Jones** will take the stage in 2025! An award-winning journalist, thought-leader, and changemaker, Imara is known for challenging conventional thinking and inspiring bold action to transform our world.

Imara, whose work has won Emmy and Peabody Awards, is the creator of [TransLash](#) Media, a cross-platform journalism, personal storytelling and narrative project, which produces content to shift the current culture of hostility towards transgender people in the US."

The Ware Lecture can be viewed live in person in Baltimore, MD or live-streamed on Saturday, June 21 at 7:00 p.m. with your General Assembly registration. See <https://www.uua.org/> for more information.

Image source: <https://www.uua.org/> and <https://tinyurl.com/mrvbshfh>

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UUA Responds to Anti-Trans Proclamation



On April 10, 2025 the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) published the following press release.

"In these challenging times, when trans and nonbinary people are once again being targeted by political attacks disguised as policy, our Unitarian Universalist values call us to respond with clarity and courage.

Last week, the White House issued a Presidential Proclamation that shamefully labeled gender identity as a threat to children — perpetuating harmful, baseless rhetoric that endangers trans lives and undermines families. In response, the Unitarian Universalist Association issued a powerful public statement rejecting this hateful framing and reaffirming our unwavering commitment to the safety, dignity, and sacred worth of trans and nonbinary people.

'Affirming the inherent worthiness and belovedness of transgender people is an expression of our Unitarian Universalist faith,' the statement reads. 'You were not made wrong — you were made sacred, and through you we are all made more whole. ' "

For the full statement, click on the link: <https://tinyurl.com/6jaacfat>

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

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## Feel Like Taking Action but Don't Know How?



In this time of political and moral upheaval, it is easy to feel that justice action is required, but what action is the question. The UUA's (Unitarian Universalist Association's) organizing and strategy team known as Side With Love has alternatives. Every Tuesday they update a list of how people can take timely action, attend upcoming events to connect and mobilize, and spiritually reflect to sustain the work.

Access their weekly update via the following link for more information.

<https://tinyurl.com/yck8vdx>

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/yck8vdx>

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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

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
Barbara L. Barnes, *Heirloom* Editor

Submissions for the next *Heirloom* are due by **5 p.m., Tuesday, May 27, 2025.**
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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