



The Newsletter for

# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

January 2006

UUC News

## **January Service Schedule**

**January 1: 10:30 am *Dreams for 2006.*** [Rev. Elaine Strawn]

On this very first day of the year, we will gather for a service of honoring the year gone by and sharing hope for 2006. Aluminum Can collection Day.

**January 8: 10:30 am *Poverty: An American Tragedy*** [Beverly Wire]

Guest at Your Table contributions will be collected today. Elaine Strawn will be preaching in Bellville.

**January 15: 10:30 am *Still Some Work Left to Do*** [Marge Thomas and Rev. E. Strawn]

On this Martin Luther King weekend, we honor the great leader's memory and recommit ourselves to the continue the work of equality and peace. The choir will sing.

**January 16: 7 pm: *Community Martin Luther King, Jr. Service***

We will gather at the Wooster High School Performing Arts Center for a service of Reconciliation and Unity.

**January 22: 10:30 am *CAMO*** [Kathy Tschiegg & the Social Action committee]

Ambassadors to Central America live in our midst. In the first of this year's Social Action Series, a speaker from the Central American Medical Organization will share their visions and needs.

**January 29: *Tao Te Ching*** [Rev. Elaine Strawn]

This ancient sacred text of Taoism is one of the most beloved texts in the world. It's wisdom challenges us to know ourselves deeply and to relax into our natural place in the universe. The choir will sing.

NOON: Brown Bag Discussion (library)

***Note: Every Sunday in January: Sign up for your appointment for the photo directory.***

Parking will continue to be a challenge until the ground is frozen.

Until we remove the yellow tape, please park on the outbound side of the driveway, Cannon Drive, at Kinney field (corner of Oldman & Burbank) or Freedlander Park  
Walking along the driveway can contribute to the congestion. We will try to create a path from Burbank Road past the retention pond connecting to the sidewalk.

Volunteers needed for sidewalk snow removal.  
Contact Gene Meyers or Helen Ostermiller.

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## ***From the Board***

Well, we're living in our new home, and each time I walk through I see new additions to the walls and the décor, and, slowly, the little odds and ends of finishing work are being accomplished. My thanks again to everyone who continues to provide volunteer hours.

Our December 11<sup>th</sup> informational meeting went well, and we will continue to have these 'briefings with opportunities for questions and answers as we move forward.

I know finding parking with time to experience the start of the Sunday service is a challenge. We cannot use the permeable parking lots until the grass has a chance to be established – in the spring. Until then, please remember that the parking spaces closer to the building should be used by those of us who are more fragile than others. We may park at Freedlander Park, Wooster High School, and Cannon Drive (just down the block toward the Kinney Building). If you are parking along the drive, please remember to use only ONE side, and get as close to the edge as you can. Above all, please be patient. Eventually we'll remember the parking challenge and laugh. Maybe. Eventually.

Please consider the 'sanctuary' is not only for our services on Sunday morning. It's also the place to take your coffee and treats to gather for fellowship. We've begun using the lobby area as our après service yakkin spot, and it's just become too cloggy. Folks can't get TO the coffee (horrors!), or to their coats, or to read the announcement board, or to put away their nametags. Please, please move into the BIG room with your coffee after services.  
Namaste, Helen

## ***Social Action in Action***

**SOCIAL JUSTICE/COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY:** will be the theme for this year's Social Action Series during regular Sunday services. A donation of \$50 will be made from the Social Action Committee budget to the agencies represented by the speakers. The focus this year will be on local agencies providing medical services. On January 22 Kathy Tschiegg, founder of the Orrville based Central American Medical Outreach, Inc., will speak about the programs it provides in Honduras. On February 19 Susan Varnes, RN, Executive Director of the Viola Startzman Free Clinic, will discuss the work and needs of this organization. The services of the Mental Health and Recovery Board will be described on March 19 by its Executive Director William Mateer.

**ECUMENICAL COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL CONCERNS:** this newly formed group has representatives from social justice committees of local churches aiming to have a greater impact on selected social justice issues by joining together in the effort. This is a real opportunity for the UUFWC to participate in activities which by our size we could not undertake alone. The next meeting is January 24 at Trinity UCC. You do not have to be a member of the Social Action Committee to participate. For more information contact Betty Schuler.

**MIDYEAR SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING:** the committee will meet at the Fellowship on January 8 at 7:00 pm (snow date January 22). If you have a project you would like to present, contact Helen Ostermiller or Betty Schuler for a place on the agenda. If you don't have a project to suggest, but would like to learn what the committee does, please plan to attend.

**PEOPLE TO PEOPLE:** thanks to all who we able to contribute to the Thanksgiving Dinner collection and the Case Food Drive. The January 15 collection will be peanut butter and jelly. Donate one jar, several or a case full, it is all needed!

**QUEST FOR PEACE:** bring your aluminum cans to the January 1 service and put them in the back of Joe Kufchak's dark blue pickup truck which will be parked near the front door. Joe will trade them in for cash to purchase school supplies and other necessities for children in Nicaragua.

The **GUEST AT YOUR TABLE PROGRAM** will conclude on Sunday, January 8. Please remember to bring your contributions that day. The Guest Program supports the worldwide human rights and justice work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Please write your checks to the UUSC and complete the information on the bottom of the Guest box or the Guest envelope. Extra envelopes are available on the ledge as you enter the sanctuary.

Your Guest at Your Table contribution can qualify you for UUSC membership. As a member, you will receive up-to-date information and news on human rights issues and/or opportunities to participate in work camps or other UUSC activities. Yearly membership is \$40 for an adult, \$75 for 2 adults, \$10 for students/youth (high school and up) and \$20 for Seniors (65 years and older). Contributions of \$75 or more will be matched dollar for dollar by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock. Thank you for your support! If you have questions, please contact Marge Thomas, Ruth Dykstra, Cheryl Guthrie or Elaine Strawn.

### ***Minister's Column***

It is Winter Solstice as I write this. The reading for the day comes from the *Tao Te Ching*:

If you close your mind in judgments and traffic with desires,  
your heart will be troubled.  
If you keep your mind from judging and aren't led by the senses,  
your heart will find peace.  
Seeing into darkness is clarity.  
Knowing how to yield is strength.  
Use your own light and return to the source light.  
This is called practicing eternity.

In this collection edited by Maggie Oman the New Year begins with Winter Solstice as we begin the journey toward the sun's return. In the real world, Congress is debating a budget plan which would impact health care for the poor and oil drilling in Alaska; religio-politicos rage over the use of "Holiday" v. "Christmas", (especially ironic in a year when Chanukkah falls on December 26). It seems the sun has gone away, yet we know it will return in its time. There are hopeful signs: a judge in Dover, Pennsylvania is ruling that Intelligent Design doesn't belong in biology classes, and, though the Kyoto talks didn't meet the goal, they didn't completely break down. It is always a slightly new world when the sun makes its complete return. Yet, this is faith, is it not? When our days are occupied in knowing ourselves, in letting insights rather than desires reign, we join in the effort to bring back the sun. Our faith calls us to bring back the light. In 2006, we are practicing eternity.

### ***DRE Column***

Our Mitten Tree looks beautiful! Thank you to all of you who contributed. In this holiday season if anyone feels inclined toward giving a book to the R.E. library, the wish list is now posted inside my office. Also, The Wooster Book Company and Books, Etc. have our list on hand. I plan to add to it soon.

There is another Senior High CON coming up February 3-5 in Pittsburgh. We will be having our pre-CON meeting with David Francis on January 8<sup>th</sup>. This is soon, so people in grades 9-12-- please make your plans quickly!!! This is the best CON of the year, the Social Action Conference.

A plea from the Junior High people: if you are using their classroom for other meetings, please take all of your things with you when you are finished, and also empty your wastebasket into the bin in the mechanical room. We have been finding lots of magazines in that room. They do not need any more magazines. (Some of you may be bringing them thinking that we are continuing the magazine exchange which we were doing in the sanctuary at the old church. We are no longer doing that.) That room is so welcoming with the wonderful furniture in it that lots of groups are using it, including our own R.E. Committee. Thanks for your cooperation in the multiple-usage of the space.

I look forward to attending a LREDA Chapter meeting in Akron on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

All 44 R.E. volunteers who minister to our 51 children and youth will be meeting on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. for our mid-year planning session. The subject of our large group meeting will be the history of Universalism and Unitarianism. We are pleased that Kristin Keating has agreed to coordinate the Nursery now that Helen Ostermiller has become co-chair of the Facilities Committee!

Tim Breiner and I plan to offer the OWL sexuality program for grades 5 and 6 beginning in late January. We'll soon have the materials out so that parents may peruse them. The classes will be held on Saturdays. We will have a parent meeting on Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.

Happy New Year! Marge

## **--Your Picture In This Space--**

We're updating the pictorial Fellowship Directory. (It was last published in May of 2002, and if you were to gaze at that edition, you'll see right away how time flies.)

During January, an ad-hoc posse will be doing everything imaginable to make an appointment with you to have your photo taken professionally by Olan Mills, the outside photographers who compile these directories. They will be here on TUESDAY, JANUARY 31 and WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, between 3 and 9:30 pm.

*There's no charge for your photo*, and you'll receive one free 8x10" print with your copy of the new directory.

Right after your photos are taken, you can preview them on-screen to select the one you'd like to have in the directory and to order extra copies at your expense, if you choose to do so.

Everyone who wants to be included in the directory is encouraged to sign up, regardless of your technical membership status! Your photos can be taken and published as families or as individuals, as you like.

The posse includes Kate Freed, Letty Nault, Sue Gross and Cheryl Guthrie; and you may approach any of us to make an appointment or ask questions. We'll post reminders, blurb and FAQs on the bulletin board, and sign-up sheets will be front-and-center on Sundays throughout January so that you can pick a slot and sign up. Failure to do so will result in shameless personal recruitment by the posse.

## **Wish List for Our Building**

Our building continues to be a work in process. The wish list is posted on the announcement board and additional copies are on the social action table. If you have any of these items and don't need them any more, we would greatly appreciate any donations you make.

Special Thanks for the following donations: Tom & Sue Gross: Dishwasher; Adam & Kristin Keating: Nursery carpet; Rick & Cheryl Davis: Teen Room Furniture; Skip & Letty Nault: Stove; Ruth Sewell: many of the plants and the indoor water garden; Carol Beth Neal: the Norfolk pine and a paper shredder & Helen Ostermiller for her carpentry talents & new nametag rack.

## **This Month**

### **'IF GRACE IS TRUE' CONTINUES**

Our discussion of "If Grace is True" was interesting enough to plan another evening of discussion on **January 27**, at 7:00 p.m. We will discuss why the language of Christianity forms for many of us "scary vocabulary." We will use the book *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith* by Kathleen Norris as a reference although you do not need to read the book to participate.

Please join us. We will have coffee and snacks. Questions?? Talk to Bev Wire

### **BUILDING COMMITTEE APPRECIATION BREAKFAST**

will be held **Sunday, January 29**, 2006. We will serve a hot breakfast beginning at 9:00 AM, and be ready for worship on time. Plan to attend (donations accepted) to thank the building committee in person.

### **BROWN BAG DISCUSSION**

The Brown Bag Discussion will be on the **FIFTH SUNDAY** for this month only. On **January 29** at noon in the library, we will gather to talk more fully about the *Tao Te Ching*.

## **Fundraising Committee**

The Fundraising Committee is charged with raising funds to help meet our budget needs, with an emphasis on raising funds outside of fellowship members pockets. Past fundraising activities that we will continue this year include selling hotdogs at Buehler's, garage sales, Care to Share and recycling printer ink cartridges. Keep your eyes and ears open for the dates and details of these activities. We've also got some fun, exciting and new FUNdraising ideas on the drawing board. We'll be sharing those with you in the very near future.

If you are interested in helping out with any fundraising activities—either on an 'as needed' or an ongoing basis—please let Peg Redinbaugh know or leave a note in the fundraising mailbox.

## ***Coming Events***

### **NEW COVENANT GROUPS STARTING**

In February we will begin two new Chalice Circles. The four circles which began in October are building their identity and support...so we'll provide some opportunities for new people to join in the Small Group setting of our Fellowship.

### **WINTERUM**

We'd like to chase away the winter blues by offering mini classes. What could you teach, or what would you like to learn about? Possibilities include: Make-up101;

Houseplant care; or Un-stress the holidays in 2006! Classes may be in February or March, fees may apply.

Contact Sue Gross with your ideas.

Thank You.

### **ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

In February, we will begin a class on dreams....no sleeping in class! We will use some tools to examine this treasure trove of our minds. Don't remember your dreams? Bring your daydreams instead! They come from the same source.

Watch for a sign up sheet.

### **INTERESTED IN ADULT OWL?**

Look for sign-up sheet soon!

If you don't know what

Adult OWL is, ask Jon Sprunger or Susan Heady

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH THE EVERGREEN WORKSHOP, especially: Candy Lint, Mady Noble, Norma Barber, Rachel Webb, And Sherry Gochnauer. Everyone had fun and our church looks great! Also thanks to Marie & Sarah miller who helped with clean-up. We plan another workshop next year.

## ***Every Month***

### **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

meets 3rd Sundays during school year at 7:00 pm

We are skipping December

Jan 15: The Red Tent by Anita Diamant

Feb 19: How to Rent a Negro by Damali Ayo

### **DRUMMING CIRCLE**

1st Fridays at Bill & Susan's house from 7 to 9 pm.

Call for directions.

9: How to Rent a Negro by Damali Ayo

### **NEEDLEWORK GROUP**

3rd Saturdays from 2-4 pm

January 21 -at the home of Susan Heady

February 18- at Thymbles in Smithville

### **OHIOANS FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY**

We are working for the civil right of marriage for same-sex couples in Ohio.

Meetings are the 4th Tuesday, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.

### **WISE WOMEN'S CIRCLE**

The Wisdom Circle meets on 4th Monday

at the fellowship

from 6:30-8:30 pm.

### **JOIN THE YAHOO ANNOUNCEMENT GROUP**

If you have an e-mail account, please join the fellowship's Yahoo E-mail group. You'll receive announcements that are not in the newsletter, plus news that used to be passed via our "telephone tree", such as information about illnesses and deaths. There is no spam, because the list is moderated, and responses are sent to the sender, not the whole congregation.

To join, send an e-mail to Anne Wilson, office administrator at [fellowship@uufwc.org](mailto:fellowship@uufwc.org)

### **PHOTOS NEEDED**

Phil Grimm is working on a power point presentation about the green features of our building. If you have any photos (particularly digital) that would help illustrate our building, please send them to Phil

## ***Other Important Information***

### **COFFEE ASSIGNMENTS**

We have adopted the policy of assigning coffee duty each week during the regular church year. At most, you would be responsible for making coffee once a year. There are directions near the coffee maker, treats are optional. Sharing this responsibility makes it easier on everyone.

January	1	Klemme/Wilson Family
	8	Knebusch Family
	15	Candy Lint/ Ken McDonald
	22	Gray/McNamara Family
	29	Gene & Helen Meyers
February	5	Carol Morrison/ Kay Bowen
	12	Carol Beth Neal/ Letty Nault
	19	Mike Peterson/ Paul Evans
	26	Juan Gross/ Peg Redinbaugh

If you are unable to make coffee on your assigned week, please find your own replacement. The complete list is posted on the announcement board.

### **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

#### *January Birthdays*

8 Jon Sprunger	21 Kay Bowen
11 Casey Hoy	23 Paul Evans
14 Michael Jaeb	25 Gail Carter
16 Lois Grant	27 Jim Wheelis

#### *January Anniversaries*

*The anniversaries listed in the December newsletter were incorrect.*

- 1 George & Jane Williston (their 55th!!)
- 2 Bev Wire & Bruce Carden

### **RIDES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS**

The fellowship offers a rides service for College of Wooster students who wish to attend Sunday services. Following is the schedule of drivers for the coming weeks. Drivers, if you cannot drive on your scheduled date, please arrange your own substitute.

Following is the schedule for the coming weeks:

January 1	- Hazel and Clif Bushnell
January 8	- Margo Warner Curl & Tom Strickler
January 15	- Rachel Webb
January 22	- Ruth Sewell
January 29	- Sue and Tom Gross
February 5	- Hazel and Clif Bushnell

### **VOLUNTEER CLEANERS**

The facilities committee is again asking for volunteers to clean the Fellowship Hall and the restrooms.

Gene has 6 names already--the more people that sign up, the less often it will be your turn to clean.

Contact Gene.

**I wish to thank everyone who helped with the benefit and contributed to it.** I think I was just too stunned and numb to realize how much had been collected. I have come to know I have way more friends than I ever suspected. And the sheer numbers of the fellowship that attended let alone contributed, astound and humble me. I cannot thank you enough. Please know my intentions are to use the funds to spread and lighten the awful load created by the emergency nature of the accident where an out of system hospital was used. I am so grateful to you all, you cannot imagine. Thank you. *Ken McDonald*

### ***A Look at The Year Ahead***

Feb 3-5, 2006	Senior High Social Action Con. Must attend the pre con meeting 1/15/06
Feb 17-20, 2006	OMD Winter Institute at Salt Fork State Park
Some Saturday in February	--Instead of the usual Team meetings in January, we hope to have a strategic planning session including <b>all the committee chairs</b> on a Saturday in February.
April 2, 2006	Weekend Celebration & Formal Dedication of our new building
April 21,22, 2006	OMD Annual Meeting. Meets with the Commission on Appraisal.
May 7, 2006	UUFWC Annual Meeting--following the service
June 22-26, 2006	General Assembly in St. Louis.
July 9-15, 2006	Ohio Meadville District Summer Institute at Kenyon College
TBD, 2006	Evergreen Workshop. We had such fun this year, we will repeat it next year
TBD, 2006	Madrigal Feast. (This is still in the planning stages.)
Dec 3, 2006	Alternative Gift Market will be held in our building



## **About the UUFWC**

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County,  
a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

**Mission Statement:** The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County welcomes, accepts and supports all individuals seeking personal and spiritual growth in an open community. For our children and adults, we nurture and promote the development of ideas, beliefs and respect for self, others and the earth. We celebrate diversity, honor the individual and collective search for truth and strive for social justice.

**How to Find Us:** We meet at 10:30 am on Sundays. Any questions, please call: 330-262-9194  
3186 Burbank Road, Wooster. (on the west side of Burbank Road, 2 short blocks north of Oldman Road)

**Minister:** Rev. V. Elaine Strawn, email: minister@uufwc.org

**Director of Religious Education:** Marge Thomas, e-mail: dre@uufwc.org

**Office Administrator & Newsletter Editor:** Anne Wilson, email: fellowship@uufwc.org

**Newsletter Deadline:** The 17th day of every month!

**Website:** www.uufwc.org Check out our new website!!

**Yahoo Group Email:** uufwc@yahoogroups.com One email reaches nearly everyone!

**Office Hours:** Elaine: Monday 1-5 pm, Wednesday 6 pm– 9 pm, Thursday 9 am-1 pm  
Marge: Tuesday & Thursday 11:30—4 pm  
Anne: Monday & Wednesday 11 am—2 pm, Fridays by appointment

## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County

3186 Burbank Road  
Wooster, OH 44691



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for truth and striving for social justice.