



The Newsletter for

December 2007

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

of Wayne County

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

UUCW News

December Service Schedule

December 2: 10:30 am *Bridging the Gap* [Rev. Nancy Arnold]

Rev. Arnold looks at how religious language can get in our way.

December 9: 10:30 am *"Snowman" and other poems by Shel Silverstein.*

[Karol Crosbie and the RE Children]

A poetry reading for all ages.

December 16: 10:30 am *Choir Sunday* [Choir]

Songs of the season.

December 23: 10:30 am *How Do You Save a Savior?* [Rev. Elaine Strawn]

If we don't need a savior, does the story of Jesus have anything to say to us? Stories that last a long time usually do!

December 24: 7 pm *Traditional Candlelight Service* [Rev. Elaine Strawn]

If we don't need a savior, does the story of Jesus have anything to say to us? Stories that last a long time usually do!

December 30: 7 pm *Ten Thousand Points of Light* [Rev. Elaine Strawn]

The minister's column this month mentions the Kabbalah story of the Ein Sof and the breaking apart of the single radiant light. What if we spent 2008 trying to put the light back together?

Have a Happy & Healthy Holiday!

Please remember to park only on the outgoing side of driveway. When there is snow or ice, it is difficult to maneuver when there are cars on both sides of the driveway and foot traffic.
(go around the circle & then park on the right side.)

Inside this issue:

From the Board, Social Action	2
Ministers Column, DRE	3
Committee News	4,5
What's Happening	6,7
Birthdays, Anniversaries, rides for COW students & the Year Ahead	8
Calendar	9

From the Board

The board met for its annual retreat 2 weekends ago. We got to know each other better, and made plans for our work during this fiscal year.

We had a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 6. We continue to discuss the By Laws and any changes that should be brought to the annual meeting in May. We are still working with the Nominating committee, to assure that their committee and the board both have the members that they need. Some of these discussions are prompted by the increased size of our Fellowship, currently hovering around 150 members, which means we are becoming a "mid-sized" congregation.

Other things we are discussing are employee vacation policies, and in-house emergency procedures. These items are on the agenda, as well as a first discussion of the UUA accessibility study, finding a Deputy Treasurer, and a look at the 5-year plan as an "indicator of success". The meeting is scheduled for December 4 at 7:00, and is open to the congregation.

Scott Crawford has agreed to fill a vacant unexpired seat on the board. We welcome him. Thanks, Scott.



Social Action in Action

ADOPT A CLASS - gifts for the Head Start classes we've adopted are due on December 9 - please put them in the library. If you'd like to participate, check the garland around the Social Action bulletin board for names of children. Select one or more, sign your name next to that child's name on the sheet on the table under the bulletin board. Please gift wrap your presents and attach the tag you take from the garland.

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE HELPS THE WORKING POOR. In the last several years individuals seeking emergency food and other assistance from this agency have changed from those predominantly on some type of public assistance to the working poor - men and women with children who work at minimum wage jobs in fast food restaurants or nursing homes. Any unexpected expense - car repairs, illness, prescriptions, high utility bills. means that their meager pay can't be stretched any further. Each month the UUFWC has a collection for People to People, usually on the third Sunday of the month. Each month a food product or other item is suggested for the collection, but any non-perishable item is welcome.

In addition, money donations are always needed to help pay for the unexpected expenses. During holiday and vacation times, the need for emergency food assistance increases dramatically. Children are home who otherwise may receive free or reduced price meals at school, adding to the food costs of families already financially strapped. How can you help? On Sunday, December 16th you can participate in the **Case Food Drive** collection. Your monetary donation, payable to People to People Ministries and marked "Food Drive" will be used to purchase items in short supply. Prices of cases of food items regularly purchased range from \$9 to \$30.

The Minister's Column

In this month when the Buddhists celebrate enlightenment, and the Jews celebrate the Feast of Lights, and the Pagans celebrate Solstice's coming of light, and the Christians celebrate the birth of the Prince of Light, I am reminded of the creation stories told in the Jewish mystic tradition. Physician Rachel Naomi Remen shares the story given her as a gift from her Hasidic rabbi grandfather.

In the beginning there was only holy darkness, the *Ein Sof* the source of life. And then, in the course of history, the world of a thousand thousand things emerged from the heart of the holy darkness as a great light. But there was an accident, and the vessels containing the light of the world—it's wholeness--broke. And the wholeness of the world, the light of the world, was scattered into a thousand thousand fragments of light. They fell into all events and all people, where they remain deeply hidden within each of us this very day.

According to her grandfather, the whole human race is a response to this accident. We are here because we are born with the capacity to find the hidden light in all events and in all people. Our task is to lift up the light and make it visible again, thereby restoring the innate wholeness of the world. Our task is called *Tikkum Olam* in Hebrew, the restoration of the world, a collective task. It involves all people who have ever been born, all people presently alive, all people yet to be born. We are all healers of the world. It's not about healing the world by making a huge difference, it's about healing the world that's right around you.

Now, you know that religion speaks in metaphor. And if, metaphorically, all the folks in the world...the Moslems and the Jews and the Hindus and the Christians and the Unitarians began gathering up all these patches of light within and around them and brought them together...it would restore the world. If the scientists and the theologians, if the Christians-Jews-Muslims, if everyone brought their "light" [their skills and talents and commitments and hopes] together, what a world it would be. *Tikkun olam*. Each of us doing our part to bring shattered pieces of our own neighborhoods, then this Season of Light would, indeed, be a season of peace, of harmony, of love. *Tikkun Olam*. Heal the world.

Director of Religious Exploration Column

Our Halloween ghosts and goblins collected \$158 when they Trick or Treated for UNICEF!

On November 11th we gave out the Guest at Your Table boxes. The remaining boxes are to be found in the classroom of each family's YOUNGEST child. Please encourage your children to participate in filling the boxes at mealtimes, helping them remember that not every child in the world even has clean water to drink, much less adequate food. We ask that you keep the boxes on your tables until January 6th.

A LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators' Association) OMD chapter meeting was hosted here on November 16th.

Jay Klemme has volunteered to sponsor and drive for the upcoming Junior High CON to be held at West Shore Church. The theme is Harry Potter.

There is a local Martin Luther King essay contest for children from Kindergarten through High School. Classroom coordinators have the information, plus there is a flier on the R.E. bulletin board. Deadline is December 1st. Winners will be announced at the annual Martin Luther King celebration at Wooster High School in January.

Karol Crosbie will lead a whole congregational seasonal celebration entitled "'Snowman,' and Other Poems by Shel Silverstein" on December 9th. Included will be our usual Mitten Tree. Please have your children bring in new mittens, hats, or scarves to be placed on the tree, minus price-tags. These donations will be given to a local agency.

Attention all facilitators and substitutes: Our MID-YEAR PLANNING MEETING will take place on JANUARY 12TH FROM 10:00 TO 12:00 NOON. Please get that on your next year's calendar!

Happy Holidays! Marge

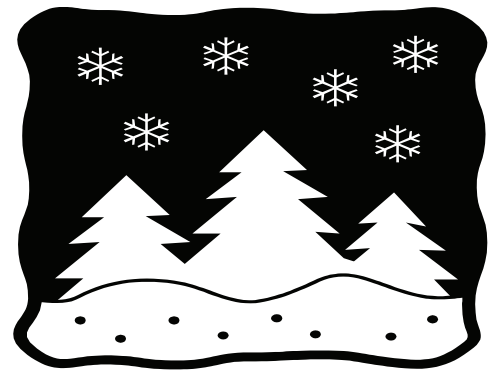
News from the committees

Fundraising

The Madrigal was a success. Selling a little over 100 tickets, getting press in the Akron Beacon Journal and having many guests that were from out of town, we accomplished our goal.

Thank you is not a big enough word to convey the gratitude to all that made this HUGE production possible and over the top successful.. .THANK YOU!!!

The **Lettuce, Olive 'n Peas cookbook** is a GREAT gift idea. At only \$10 each priced right for Holiday gift giving. They may be purchased before or after the services. Or contact Kelly Chandler or Sharon Delgadillo.



Music

Congrats to Sharon, Gregg, and the choir on their performance at the Madrigal Feast. This month we look forward to the choir's musical service on December 16th to celebrate the holidays.

If you have been thinking of joining the choir, January is a great time to start new things. Come to practice on Wednesdays at 7 pm. and find out what it's all about.

As always, we would also welcome any guest musicians to sign up to perform a piece or two during a Sunday service. Contact Sharon Delgadillo for information.

Facilities

* Needed: Volunteers for clearing snow from walks.

* Housecleaning (the week of Jan. 21). A fun time together to clean the Meeting Room, Lobby, Library and offices. Tell us you're willing to help and the best time for you! Jobs for all abilities--dusting, window washing, wiping chairs, mopping, etc.

* We now have contracted garbage service. In the past members have taken garbage home; now we have a large wheeled can, kept by shed. Full bags should be put in this brown can, and it goes to the curb on Wed. nights.

* Check out the new library cabinets, providing "homes" to additional library materials, storage for worship materials, Zen cushions and materials, coffee house supplies, WUUPs things, extra Fair Trade inventory, etc. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped with building, painting, hauling and installing them and the anonymous member who paid for them! /(If you have room for volunteers' names, include Judy Smith, Joanne Schroeder, Kay Bowen, Michael Jaeb, Phil Grimm, Gene Meyers, Tom Gross, and Helen Ostermiller.

Questions? or volunteer? Talk to Gene Meyers or Helen Ostermiller!

Stewardship Committee

The Board of Directors voted earlier this year to combine the Committee on Ministry with the Stewardship Committee. Members of your Stewardship Committee include Denise Bostdorff, Morgan Bostdorff-O'Rourke, Jon Sprunger, Mary Wicks, Elaine Strawn, and me. We are responsible for celebrating and encouraging stewardship: making sure that our Unitarian Universalist Fellowship facilities and community are cared for and nurtured.

Our theme for 2007-08 is "Stewardship Superheroes – Anybody Can Be A Stewardship Superhero!"

We are also responsible for the annual fundraising campaign to support our Fellowship. The Finance Committee gathers input from all the committees and the Board and Staff and puts together a budget. Then the Stewardship Committee launches an annual campaign to raise the dollars. We are also designing a Time and Talent pledge form to encourage non-monetary gifts also critical to our Fellowship, like yard work, painting, making Sunday morning coffee, etc.

We will honor our first Stewardship Superheroes in December, organize focus groups in January around a survey in the design phase right now, and kick off our annual Stewardship campaign on February 10th.

Look for the Stewardship Superheroes nomination box and forms soon.

RE Spotlight

Boston Bound

The Coming of Age class is planning a trip to the UU heartland this spring. You can help them fund this trip by donating your change in the BIG jar in the entry and supporting future fundraisers. Thank you in advance for your support of our youth as they focus on their spiritual journey throughout this year.

Finance

We are all grateful for the gifts people make to the Fellowship. Some gifts are of things that the Fellowship would otherwise have to buy and this saves us money.

We would like it, however, if you would make sure that Anne has a record any gifts you make along with their monetary value so that we can have a good idea of what it costs to maintain our community. Anne has a simple form to fill out even if you don't want to be reimbursed or to deduct that value of your gift on your taxes.

From the District Let Your Light Shine!

OMD Chalice Lighter's Program: Supporting the vitality of Our UU congregations.

The district is looking for Chalice Lighters. An OMD Chalice Lighter is an individual who pledges to respond with a \$10 contribution when the call comes to help a congregation in our district.

There is a maximum of 4 calls a year. Some calls have been to make a build accessible or improve RE, or to support social justice outreach. Brochures are available in the rack outside the office.

Enjoy your Holidays!

Join us as the UUFWC and other area churches present the:

Alternative Gift Market

Sunday, December 2

Noon – 2:30

First Presbyterian Church

@ College & Bowman, Wooster

Lunch will be served with proceeds benefiting area food projects

World Crafts from Kidron will offer handmade items from fair trade partnerships throughout the world.

Evergreen Workshop

Saturday, December 1, 2007

10:00AM to 3:00 PM.

\$5.00 gets you in the door

and allows you to use all the fresh greens you wish.

You may help decorate our church or make and take home your own wreath.

Wreath frames, ribbons, wire, etc. will be available for sale.

Please bring a finger food to share.

And bring your own gloves and clippers.

We are in need of adults to lead a children's craft.

Hope to see you there!

Donate your gently used (or new) holiday decorations, and we'll deliver them to Every Woman's House to be enjoyed.

Questions? See Sue Gross

The Next Out for Dinner Night

will be in January

Enjoy your Holidays!

UU Martial Arts Program

At a new time: 5-7 pm

Principal Instructor: Art Chenevey.

Every Wednesday as long as there is interest.

We will be covering dynamic martial movements as a means for developing personal awareness and situationally correct proaction, self-discipline, self-confidence, cooperation and community.

Everyone welcome to come and check it out.

(age 12 and up) For more information, contact Art Chenevey

A Gathering with

BISHOP JOHN SHELBY SPONG

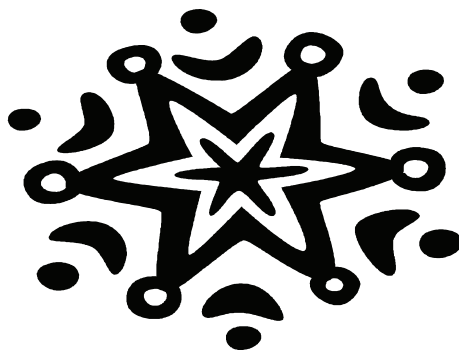
at First Unitarian Church of Toledo, Ohio

December 1, 2007

9:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Bishop John Shelby Spong's goal is to have people rethink Christianity by respectfully reconciling the teachings of Jesus with the present-day knowledge of physics, science and modern sociological understanding. An internationally recognized religious leader, Bishop Spong seeks "to break the Jesus explanations out of the boundaries of antiquity and explain it in the 21st century."

For information or tickets, contact Julia Field McGhee: Julia F Mc @aol.com



UUSC Holiday Cards

As families celebrate the tradition of Guest at Your Table, many are preparing for the holidays. You can share special holiday greetings with your loved ones, while helping to make a difference in our world, by purchasing UUSC holiday cards. Visit <http://www.uusc.org/holidaycards> today.

Three beautiful new UUSC holiday cards are now available, including an original design by Holiday Card Contest winner Megan Miley of Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Goleta, Calif. Cards can be ordered on consignment or purchased directly.

Proceeds from the sale of holiday cards help UUSC advance justice and work for basic human rights in the name of UU principles. Order your holiday cards today!



Wishing you and all the people of the world a bright & happy holiday!

(one of 4 designs)

Every Month

ACLU MOVIE & DISCUSSION NIGHT
 Jeff Miller from the ACLU will show the new Series— Freedom Files 2
 On 2nd Tuesdays at 7 pm

RESTARTING IN JAN. 2008
 Jan. 8: Freedom to Parent: Lesbian & Gay Families

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
 Meets 3rd Sunday during the school year at 7 pm
 Jan 20, 2008: Misquoting Jesus by Bart Ehrman
 Feb 17: The 5 People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom

COVEN OF UUFWC
 Meets on a monthly basis in members homes, usually on Saturday evenings.
 For Information, contact Tisha Russo

DRUMMING CIRCLE
 Discontinued for the fall.

OHIOANS FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY
 We are working for the civil right of marriage for same-sex couples in Ohio.
 Meets 4th Tuesday from 7 to 8 pm

THE OPEN CLOSET
 The Open Closet is a social networking group for the LGBT community, their families and allies.
 Our meetings (pot-luck style dinner and conversation) are held on the first Friday of every month at 6:30pm. All ages welcome.

SCRABBLE NIGHTS
 See calendar: every other Sunday evenings from 7 to 9:30PM.
 Bring a board if you have one, a dictionary is helpful, and if you like: a snack to share.

WOMEN'S WISDOM CIRCLE
 Fourth Monday from 6:30 to 8:30 pm

WORD WORKS WRITERS GROUP
 1-3 pm on 3rd Thursdays of the Month

WUUPS
 Wayne UU Pagans meets at 7pm at the fellowship December 22 winter solstice
 at the home of David & Tammy Paul. [Time-TBD]
 Jan 20-full moon at the home of Chris Weber
 Feb 17-full moon
 Mar 16-Ostara
 For information, contact Gail Carter

Other Important Information

December Birthdays

1 Ashley Baxstrom
 25 Rich Pratt
 31 Jen Cushmans

December Anniversaries

6 Cristia & John Sullens
 24 Robert & Susanelou Adair
 31 Jen Cushman & Matt Dingo

If you don't see your birthday on the list, it is because I don't know it. I'd be happy to add your important events to the list-please contact the office.

Rides for College Students

The fellowship offers a ride service for College of Wooster students who wish to attend Sunday services during the school year. Drivers, if you cannot drive on your scheduled date, please arrange your own substitute. Please meet in front of Lowry Center at 10:10 am

Dec 2	Ruth Sewell
Dec 9	Margo Curl

Students are on Winter Break till Jan 14

New in the Library

Donated to the Library & soon to be cataloged:

Audiobook on CDs
 Jane Goodall's

Harvest for Hope: A guide to Mindful Eating

Coffee Duty

Dec 2	<i>available</i>
Dec 9	Bowen, McAdams, Barber
Dec 16	<i>available</i>
Dec 23	Letty & Skip Nault
Dec 30	



Would you like to host coffee hour? It is easy! Pick your date & sign up! The sign up sheet is located on the bulletin board in lobby.

A Look At the Year Ahead

Feb 15-18, 2008	Winter Institute. Family Fun with friends from the Ohio Meadville District. Held at Salt Fork State Park.
April 4-5, 2008	Ohio Meadville District Annual Meeting at First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh. Look for Summer Institute Brochures.
May 4, 2008	Our Annual meeting. Members are invited to stay after the service and vote on the business of the fellowship.
June 25-29, 2008	General Assembly of Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. Fort Lauderdale, Florida Theme: Common Threads
July 13-19, 2008	Summer Institute: Family Fun with friends from the Ohio Meadville District. Held at Kenyon College. See: www.omdsi.org This year, theme Speaker will be Meg Barnhouse. She is a singer/songwriter and humorist. For more information on Meg Barnhouse, see www.megbarnhouse.com

December 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Office Hours: Elaine: Wed: 6-9 pm, Thur: 10-2pm, Fri 1-5pm Marge: Tuesday & Thursday 1-3 pm Anne: 10-2: Monday, Wednesday, Friday						1 10:00am Evergreen Workshop
2 Aluminum Cans 10:30am Rev Nancy Arnold 12:00pm Alternative Gift Market 7:00pm Scrabble Night	3 5:45pm Zen Meditation	4 7:00pm Board Meeting	5 5:00pm Martial Arts 7:00pm choir	6 2:00pm OMD Resource Devlopmt Meeting	7 5:30pm The Open Closet	8 10:00am rehearse for 12/9 service
9 People 2 People 10:30am Snowman-poetry of Shel Silverstein 12:00pm Finance Committee Meeting 4:00pm Passion for Life Chalice Circle	10 5:45pm Zen Meditation 7:00pm RE committee meeting	11	12 1:00pm x team 5:00pm Martial Arts 5:00pm Baker's Dozen 7:00pm choir 7:00pm Youth Group	13	14	15
16 10:30am Choir Sunday 5:30pm Alternative Service-B Wire 7:00pm Coming of Age 7:00pm Scrabble Night	17 5:45pm Zen Meditation	18	19 5:00pm Speaking of Spirituality Chalice Circle 5:00pm Martial Arts	20 1:00pm Word Works Writers Group	21	22 7:00pm WUUPS-Solstice
23 10:30am How Do You Save a Savoir?-Strawn 4:00pm Passion for Life Chalice circle	24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29
~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Office is Closed ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~						
30 10:30am 10,000 points of Light-Strawn 10:30am Youth group 7:00pm Scrabble Night	31 New Year's Eve 5:45pm Zen Meditation					

About the UUFWC

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

Mission Statement: The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is an inclusive spiritual community; its commitment is to social justice for the individual, the community, and the environment.

How to Find Us: We meet at 10:30 am on Sundays at 3186 Burbank Road., in Wooster. 330-262-9194

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

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

Board of Directors: Phil Grimm, president, Carol Morrison, vice president, John Gross, secretary, Susan English, Cheryl Guthrie, Pat Rodgers, Scott Crawford.

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

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

Website: www.uufwc.org Webmaster: Lee Simpson

Yahoo Group Email: Address your email to: uufwc @yahoogroups.com One email reaches nearly everyone! To join, email the office: fellowship @uufwc.org.

Office Hours: Regular Office Hours:

Elaine: Wednesday: 6-9 pm, Thursday: 10am– 2pm, Friday 1-5 pm

Marge: Tuesday & Thursday: 1-3 pm

Anne: Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 10am –2 pm

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Wayne County
3186 Burbank Road
Wooster, Ohio 44691



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its commitment is to social justice for the
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