



The Newsletter for

May 2008

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

UUCW News

May Service Schedule

May 4: 10:30 am *Beltane* [Spirit Paths]

In the Pagan cycle of the year, May 1 is a time of preparing the earth for a season of growth and produce. The Spirit Paths Group will lead us through a celebrative and educational service, and Bill Alkire will lead us in a dance around the May Pole.

NOON: Annual Congregation Meeting-see below for more info.

May 11: 10:30 am *Joy, Life, Rhythm* [Mythos Team]

Mother's Day seems a most appropriate time to celebrate the joy of life. Join us for this experiential service.

May 18: 10:30 am *RE Service* [Marge Thomas and the RE department]

R.E. Sunday is an special service celebrating our children and youth! They will treat us with some excerpts from their newly- acquired knowledge. Our "Bridging" Seniors will also be honored.

Alternative Service Cancelled

May 25: 10:30 am *Lessons in Love* [Rev. V. Elaine Strawn]

The speaker at our OMD Annual Meeting, Alice Blair Wesley suggested that "love" is the covenant which holds UUs together. In *Spirituality for the Skeptic*, philosopher Robert Solomon suggests that "love", not "duty" is the true spiritual virtue which binds us together and invites us beyond ourselves.

Annual Meeting

May 4th after the service

There are several important issues that will be up for a vote. Voting is restricted to members of the fellowship. Besides the usual election of officers, we will discuss:

The proposed bylaws revision.

Supporting the Equal Housing & Employment Act for LGBT people before the Ohio legislature.

Parking Options and possible expenditures.

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From the Board

At our April meeting, your board of directors approved the job description as presented by the Finance Committee for a Deputy Treasurer, and accepted Carol Noel as the person to fill that position. Carol will assist Dave Drumm as our treasurer and move into that position over time.

We approved the purchase of a bronze plaque to recognize the charter members of the Fellowship. It would be installed outside, across from the LEEDS plaque. Also, Elaine has been asked if we would consider hiring an intern minister. She will talk to the candidate further, and find out the details.

We are trying to find a solution to the parking issue, and to establish more permanent parking areas. We are considering paving some of the parking areas that are now in grass, and have asked the Facilities Committee to get some bids.

And we're getting ready for the Annual Meeting. We have had feedback on the proposed bylaws changes, and the Nominating Committee has provided nominees for the Board and for the Nominating Committee itself. In addition to these items, we will be asking for a vote on funding for better parking, and on a proposal from Ohioans for Marriage Equality to support the Fair Housing and Employment Act.

The Annual Meeting will be after the service on May 4. We hope everyone will attend. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is May 6, at 7:00 and is open to all.

For the Board, Juan Gross, secretary

Social Action in Action

The Social Action Committee thanks all who contributed to the Day of Change collection on March 9 to support Friendship Meals in Orrville. We collected \$124.67 to add to their support.

HELP NEEDED URGENTLY! The Adopt-a-Highway program is in danger of being discontinued. One of the oldest Social Action Committee programs, its new two year contract with the Ohio Department of Transportation has not yet been signed because no one has volunteered lead it. Ideally, two people could run the program with minimal work. Three highway pick ups are done each year, usually in spring, summer and fall on Saturday mornings. Starting at 9:00 am, the pick up is usually completed by 10:30 am. Someone is needed to advertise the scheduled day on the yahoo group, asking that those willing to work respond so that in case of inclement weather they can be contacted. There is already a pool of workers who usually participate. Some one else is needed to pick up and return the "work crew" signs to the local office of ODOT. Three times a year, that's all that needs to be done. For more information contact Mary Wicks.

ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION: Joe Kufchak is still collecting aluminum cans on the first Sunday of each month. You can find his dark blue pickup truck parked near the front of the church. If you want to bring cans at some other time, they can be left behind the green shed. Money from recycling the cans goes to Quest for Peace for school supplies for children in Nicaragua. Since September \$185.12 has been earned and sent to that organization.

OUR FAMILY LABELS: it's amazing how many products are sold at Buehler's with the Our Family label and also amazing how many are contributed to the UUFWC for the Viola Startzman Free Clinic and Every Woman's House. The universal consumer product code (the little lines that are scanned when the products are purchased) on the labels must be intact and must be from Our Family products.

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE SALTINE SUNDAY IS April 20th. Boxes of saltines are needed for the food pantry.

The Minister's Column

Announcement! Announcement!! Does the word make you cringe? This year we tried an experiment designed to keep our Sunday Service energy more meditative and less open to “business.” The power point format has allowed us to return to meditative music during the offering and keep the flow of the service going. There have been some concerns, however: people can’t read the notices on the small screen, or don’t have time before or after the service. Some of us forget to look at it.

Of course, the week’s activities are still printed on the back of the weekly order of service. Several other means have been added: Anne Wilson sends out the week’s calendar items via the email listserve on Fridays and also posts copies of all the power point slides on the bulletin board across from the Coffee window.

Your responses to the Stewardship survey, however, told us that you are not getting the information. So, the Worship Associates are adding a small piece to the Sunday service. Those items which involve the whole congregation may be written on announcement forms [available on the pulpit] before the beginning of the service. [Note: comprehensibility of the message increases with each minute the Worship Associate been in possession of the completed form!]. The announcement read will cover only the basics [what, where, when and contact person]; more detailed information will still be found in the newsletter, the power point, the bulletin board and the list serve.

We are hoping this accomplish two desired goals: the service can maintain its flow and the congregation can be aware of all the many important events that happen here. Thank you for your ongoing patience. It IS a virtue, you know.

Director of Religious Exploration Column

April was a very busy month! The 5th and 6th graders who took the OWL class with Mady Noble and Tim Breiner had themselves a graduation party on April 18th. They are **Devin Bostdorff-O'Rourke, Noah Gochner, Nick Hurt, Isaiah Klenovich, Maddie Knebusch, and Harley Moyer**. Congratulations to them!

April 20th brought the Earth Day Pageant, with all the little critters and trees and even some people being acted out by the R.E. children and youth. Many thanks to Deleasa Randall-Griffiths for crafting this event with her endless creativity and good humor!

On April 26th we hosted our second District Event for the Life Span Faith Development Committee. (Last year we did the Curriculum Fair.) This time it was the Spirit Play Training with the Rev. Nita Penfold from Boston. Fifteen attendees spent the day gaining from her wisdom in a very hands-on setting.

CON REMINDER: The last CON of the year will be held May 16-18 at the Shaker church. Sue Gross has volunteered to sponsor. I need to have forms by May 4th. See me or call me if you have questions.

May 18th will be R.E. Sunday, when we celebrate the knowledge gained by the children and youth. Please make sure your child is in attendance! Our Bridging High School Seniors will be honored on that day, as well. (See p. 5 for the Earth Spirits spotlight.)

The last day of regular R.E. classes is June 1st. However, the Nursery will be open all summer for children 0-3 and we will repeat our summer program called WOW. More information will be in the June newsletter.

News from the committees

Facilities

Spring is here--if you like to work outdoors, UU needs U!

Join Ruth and Helen on Tuesday afternoons at 12:30 pm this spring to work on the UUFWC grounds.

Gardeners--would you "adopt" one of our mulched flower beds? Or help someone else with their bed? We ask volunteers to mulch and weed their beds. Planting flowers is optional--a great place for artistic creativity!

Mowers also are needed. We have equipment; operators are needed for both riding mowers and a walk-behind mower (for the berms). People available both regularly and more occasionally are needed.

A Word about ants: They are attracted to water and food. The garbage pail in the kitchen area needs to be emptied on a regular basis and taken not to the mechanical room, but to the trash barrel by the shed.

Ruth, Helen and Gene
Contact information
In print version of newsletter

For those new to UU

Each summer, we relax a little; the piano player & choir get a break. Then in the fall, we re-gather as a community with a ritual called water communion.

If you travel this summer, think of our UU and bring back some water in a small container (pill bottle sized). Then bring your water with you for water communion in August. (Don't worry if you forget—we will have extra on hand)

Caring Circle

Help needed: The children at Every Women's House will decorate Mother's Day layer cakes and cupcakes for their moms.

We need adults (18 years and over) to supervise on Saturday, May 10, from 10:00 am to 12 noon. At press time, there are 15 kids decorating cakes for 7 moms!

See Sue Gross.

A belated THANK-YOU to Kelly Chandler and her senior friends who made 24 Easter Baskets for Every Women's House.

They all went to very appreciative people!

The In-Stitches sewing group has made 3 quilts for the RE kids to tie together. The quilts will be on display in May.

Many thanks to sewers Lois Grant, Carol Noel, Margaret Boyer, Amber Elliott and Sue Gross. We appreciate all the donated fabrics.

These quilts will be donated to Every Women's House.

Fundraising Committee

Fairy Festival Saturday, June 28, 2008 10am-4 pm. Come join us or volunteer to help!

Annual Garage Sale Don't forget to save your spring cleaning goodies to donate to our garage sale!

Saturday, August 9 Orrville Buehler Hot Dog Sales We will need volunteers to help us sell hotdogs this day.

Stay connected all week!

Join the Yahoo group.

Get email reminders about UU events.

Contact the office to join.

Fellowship @uufwc.org

District Chalice Lighters

The Ohio-Meadville District Office recently discovered that their server did not register those Chalice Lighters who signed up online during months of January to the present. The problem is now corrected but there is no way to reconstruct the information about those who signed up during that time.

If you tried to register online for Chalice Lighters during the last three and a half months, please return to the website and register again (you will not be duplicated) or you can send in a hard copy registration using the brochures at your church. Or you may call the OMD Office if you have any questions: 740-252-5980. The website is www.ohiomeadville.org and Chalice Lighters is noted under the Programming list.

The OMD Office thanks you for your patience and understanding.

Beth Casebolt
OMD District Administrator

Spotlight Earth Spirits!

This class is made up of children from Kindergarten through grade 3, and is our largest class by far. Teachers are coordinator Emily Curie, Don Curie, Dave Drumm, Martin Lubell, and substitute Briana Hoy-Skubik. They have been assisted this year by "adjunct professors" Laura Grimm and Rich Pratt.

Their first semester's subject was Superheroes of the Bible, while the second semester deals with UU Superheroes. There has been lots of role playing, from David and his coat of many colors to Clara Barton. The day they studied Clara Barton there were many students bandaged with all sorts of "ailments." They are a lively bunch, and really enjoy creativity!!

Finance Committee Pledge update

~~~Skip this if you saw it on the yahoo group~~~

Thank you to all that have pledged for the next fiscal year.

***A Special thanks to all that were able to increase your pledges or pledged for the first time.***

For those that pledged the same as last year or decreased your pledge (or have not yet pledged)—we'd like you to consider increasing your commitment--if it is at all possible.

Despite 13 new pledges, right now, the total is actually below last year's total. (at press time: we are at \$131,028 vs last year's total: \$132,690)

If you feel that the Fellowship is your spiritual home, please consider pledging (or adding to your current pledging level)

Short lesson in pledges and budgets and the UUFWC:

We ask for pledges to allow us to plan what the committees can spend and what the salaries will be for next year. Right now we are planning for the next year. (July 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2009).

Since utilities and costs go up, we have to restrict salaries and programming if the pledges don't cover our costs.

[Although pledges are not our only source of income, they make up 84% of our budget. Fundraising & cash placed in the collection basket add another 10%]

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations [our national headquarters] encourages local congregations to offer fair compensation. We are striving toward that aim and hope to increase salaries one third of the way toward this goal this year.

Another of our costs is the assessed charge to support the Unitarian Universalist national and district level organizations. For every signature in the membership book, we pay \$77/year in dues.

Copies of the budget are available in the office.

## *Fun in May*

### ***Adult Religious Education***

**4 Friday nights...May 2-23 at 7pm**

So, CAN we believe anything we want to?  
Join Rev. Elaine Strawn for a four-week class  
which looks at our UU tradition a little more closely:  
Are we really the offspring of the Puritans?  
Why do we light a chalice but avoid  
Christian holidays?  
Is there such a thing as a spiritual practice for UUs?  
What if social action is all I really care about?  
Is evolution our Eighth Principle?  
Questions? Need childcare? Call Elaine. A sign-up  
sheet is on the Connections table by the front door.



### ***Ladies Tea***

**Saturday, May 10, 2008**  
at the Fellowship  
1:00 to 4:00 pm  
Bring a dainty food to share,  
Your teacup (optional)  
and join the fairy fun!

### ***The May Out for Dinner Night*** will be held at

Malabar Farm Restaurant  
Malabar State Park

**Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 PM (5th Saturday)**  
We will carpool from the UUFWC at 5:00 PM.

The new manager and the award winning French style chef dreamed of opening a restaurant deep in the country. And yes, there is something special about the French food at the newly remodeled Malabar Farm Restaurant. Food is prepared in the traditional manner of the French country household, using simple, fresh ingredients specially chosen to enhance each meal. Join us for a relaxed evening drive in the warmth and beauty of late May as we carpool to the Malabar Farm Restaurant. Call Charles Gaines if you need a ride or if you have a change of plans.

Should you wish, you can even stay from 8 until midnight that evening and attend the Night Haunt tour hosted by the Malabar Farm State Park – bats, murder, bonfire, ghost stories. You must make your own haunting tour registration at: [http://www.malabarfarm.org/activities\\_detail.cfm?year=08&month=may&id=31](http://www.malabarfarm.org/activities_detail.cfm?year=08&month=may&id=31)

### ***Don't Miss the ACLU Series: Freedoms***

**Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm:**  
“Freedom to Dream: Rights of Immigrants”  
This film and discussion put a spotlight on ordinances that curb illegal immigration and end up fostering a climate of xenophobic fear. By punishing landlords and business owners who rent to/employ undocumented immigrants such ordinance violate the Constitution which extends protections to all. These flames of anti-immigration sentiment, have led many people to leave the towns they once helped to revitalize.

#### **COMING IN JUNE:**

Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm: “Freedom to Know”  
The focus is on sex education across the country, and the extreme limitations of the “total abstinence” philosophy. Join us!

**Please call the office to request child care for these sessions**

# FAIRY FESTIVAL AT THE ENCHANGED KINGDOM OF BUR-BANK



SATURDAY,  
JUNE 28, 2008  
10 AM –4 PM

**Come and join us to celebrate art, music and imagination and all things fairy!**

**Music, Fairy classes, Workshops, Fairy Fashion Show, Fairy Forest, Mushroom Ring, Pixie Grotto, Gossamer Glen and Labyrinth Maze**

**For more information or to see how you can help, contact Susan Heady**  
Contact information in print version of newsletter

## ***OMD Summer Institute***

Planning for Ohio-Meadville Summer Institute 2008 at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, is in full swing. Theme speaker Meg Barnhouse is set to wow the Unitarian Universalist crowds that are expected to converge on tiny Gambier, Ohio, from **July 13-19**. This year, in a push to make SI a "greener" event and to help our budget, we will be posting the Summer Institute brochure on [www.OMDSI.org](http://www.OMDSI.org) and on [www.ohiomeadville.org](http://www.ohiomeadville.org).

Copies of the brochure also available in the literature rack outside the offices.

## ***Every Month***

**ACLU MOVIE & DISCUSSION NIGHT**  
Second Tuesday at 7 pm  
See article on page 6 for this month's movie.

**BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**  
Third Sunday, during the school year, at 7 pm  
May 18: Lessons from the Life of Gandhi by K. Nair  
Summer Picnic: TBD-if you read a book this summer, come & share it with us.

**COVEN OF UFWC**  
Meets on a monthly basis in members homes, usually on Saturday evenings.  
For Information, contact Tisha Russo  
[horseless722@yahoo.com](mailto:horseless722@yahoo.com)

**DRUMMING CIRCLE**  
Fourth Sunday at 12:30. Bring your instruments.

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

**THE OPEN CLOSET**  
Cancelled until further notice

**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.

**SPIRIT PATHS**  
a newly formed group, welcomes pagans of all persuasions. May 17 at 6 pm at the fellowship.  
For more information, contact Tammy Paul

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

**WORD WORKS WRITERS GROUP**  
Third Thursday from 1-3 pm

**WUUPS**  
Wayne UU Pagans meets at 7pm at the fellowship  
April 20 (full moon), May 18, June 22 (solstice)  
For information, contact Gail Carter





## 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 Streaming audio now available. Can't make the service? Listen online!  
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

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