



The Newsletter for

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

June 2008

UU News

June Service Schedule

June 1: 10:30 am *Flower Communion* [Rev. Elaine Strawn]

One of the most beautiful events of the UU tradition is the Flower Communion developed by Nobert Copek during WWII. Please bring one flower from your garden or yard; we will combine them together into a beautiful arrangement...and take a different blossom home.

June 8: 10:30 am *UU Pilgrimage* [Ruth Sewell & the Mythos Team]

We take you from the front porch outside on a spiritual journey through our back yard. This pilgrimage will use the different features of our landscape to create a time of song, reflection, thought and meditation. Allow our land to awaken your senses! There will be accommodation for the less "mobile" of us, **Please bring a lawn chair, or blanket and make sure you come prepared with shoes and appropriate clothes for walking.**

PICNIC FOLLOWS THE SERVICE —see below.

June 15: 10:30 am *Sermon Series: Living a Balanced UU Life* [Rev. Strawn]

This year our sermon series will focus on "Living a Balanced UU Life" Our days are so rushed, how do we find time to smell the flowers?

June 22: 10:30 am *What We Believe* [Kevin Lowry]

Continuing with the series of 'living a balanced life', how does our faith tradition help us come to balance?

June 29: 10:30 am *Our Environment: How We Live* [Our Environmental Experts]

Living in balance with the environment is not only part of our UUA Principles, but also part of our life at the UUFWC. How do we actually live out our Seventh Principle?

Join us for the "regular year-wrap-up picnic" on **June 8 right after the service. Bring table service, a lawn chair or two, your favorite yard games, and a dish to share.** It WILL be fun! (Fairy fun!)

After the picnic, the services are less formal and there will be no Religious Exploration classes for the Children. But the popular WOW program returns.

See the DRE column on page 2 for more information.

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From the Board

At our May meeting, your Board of Directors discussed the recent pledge drive, and some thoughts and recommendations from the Finance Committee about how it went. Also from the Finance Committee was the concern that the pledge drive results were inadequate to support our Fair Compensation commitment, and that next year's pledges will be critical in determining our ability to meet this commitment. The Board discussed this issue and feels that fair compensation for staff needs to be a priority. We will continue our discussion and work with Finance to try to find ways to fulfill this commitment.

The X-team has received 3 applications from within the Fellowship for the part-time Sexton position. Interviews with a separate committee have been taking place and a decision is expected soon.

The Breakthrough Congregation Committee has a video almost ready to take to General Assembly (G.A.) in June. It will be shared with the entire congregation, along with a party to celebrate this honor, probably sometime after G.A.

And discussion continues on the long-term parking issue. We want to consider all the different options and their pros and cons. It's an important issue that should be resolved so that steps can be taken to improve our parking situation before winter.

The next Board Meeting is Tuesday, June 3 at 7:00, and is open to all.
For the Board, Juan Gross, secretary

Social Action in Action

YOU'RE INVITED to the year-end meeting of the Social Action Committee on Sunday, June 1st at 7:00 pm. Learn about our projects and help us decide on new ones. If you have an idea for a project contact Helen Ostermiller or Betty Schuler for a place on the agenda.

TRAVELER'S TOILETRIES: staying in hotels or motels during your summer vacation? Please remember to collect the soap, shampoo and conditioner provided. You can put them in the Traveler's Toiletries bin under the Social Action Committee table in the rear of the meeting room. They will go to the Salvation Army shelter and the Every Woman's House shelter.

LETTER WRITING PAYS OFF - the Public Witness project is an effort to influence public policy by contacting law makers about issues relating to social justice. On January 27th a letter writing session was held during which nineteen members of the congregation wrote to their state representatives urging support of a bill capping interest rates on payday lending. In April the Ohio House passed H.B. 545, capping the interest rates charged on payday loans at 28% compared to the nearly 400% now charged. On May 14th the Ohio Senate passed the bill.

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE food collections are not held during the summer months. They will resume in September with Snap Crackle and Pop cereal Sunday. Clean empty peanut butter jars, however are collected all year round. They are used at the food pantry to provide families with a three day supply of items that are usually packaged in large quantities such as clothes washing detergent. Put your jars in the People to People bin under the Social Action Committee table in the rear of the meeting room at any time.

The Minister's Column

In the midst of our discussion of parking lots and bylaws and budgets, we hear reports from Myanmar and from the Szechwan province in China. Cyclones and tornados bring our priorities into order. "Acts of God" [as an insurance company would label these catastrophes] cost tens of thousands of lives, but this is no match for the "acts of humans" which add to the death toll and to the awful suffering. A Burmese government block on incoming aid which would save its own people, brings us face to face with the concept of evil. Knowing how to help when even the hands of the United Nations seem tied is unbearable. We are left trusting our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee to find ways to get our monetary gifts of aid to the right people. It is an example of how complex moral choices and action have become.

Our General Assembly will occur in Fort Lauderdale, Florida this June 24-29. The Planning Committee was assured that heightened security measures in this border town would have expired by the time UUs gathered from around the world. That deadline, however, has been extended, and so the UUs will gather to plan their present and future in an arena protected by security officers who will require government issued picture IDs of all adults entering the building. We pride ourselves on our openness and love of diversity; yet we must function in a meeting space which very possibly guards against Undocumented Peoples [how does an human being become "illegal"?] and with possible racial or gender profiling. The debate between safety and freedom looms large in our world. And it is ours to decide how best to mitigate its effects. It is another example of the complexity of moral choices and actions.

Although we chide other, more conservative religions with overly simple moral codes, ethical reasoning can challenge UUs as well. There just are not broad categorical imperatives any more. We walk in covenant with one another; each of us knows/understands a little bit; each of us challenges the others a little bit. On a great many complex issues it is not bold strokes on a high billboard that counts in the contemporary world, but thorough reasoning and open compassion which must be our moral guide now and in the future global community.

Director of Religious Exploration Column .

The last day of regular R.E. classes will be June 1st. My thanks to all the wonderful volunteer folks who made this year what it was! I especially want to thank the R.E. Committee and outgoing chair **Lois Grant**, with whom I've had the pleasure of working these past few years. The development of Social Action in our program and the push for revitalizing the Youth Group are but two of her many contributions!

The Nursery will continue to be open all summer—for children zero to three. The Web of the World (WOW) summer program is for any children who were in the Blessed Bees class this year plus all older children. This is an outdoor program with visiting "professors" who give hands-on lessons of nature out on our land. The theme this year will be FOOD. Once again we are fortunate to have Fred Michel and Lois Grant as co-directors. Dress code will be open, but parents should be aware that there is the possibility of poison ivy in the environment.

Parents—We thank you for sending us your precious children! And now we are asking you to come and do the yearly cleaning of the R.E. wing! This will take place on Saturday, June 14th from 9-noon. Come for however long you can. The more hands we have the quicker it will go! (There will be no child-care.)

To recap, here is the June calendar of events:

June 1st—last day of classes

June 8th—picnic

June 14th—Parents' Cleaning Day (9-12)

June 15th—WOW begins: Planting the Garden Day

Happy Summer!

News from the committees

Facilities

Volunteers to mow STILL needed! Volunteers mow the grass at UU and more are needed to accommodate vacations, etc. Speak to Helen, Ruth or Gene.

Notice the beautiful newly planted flower beds—thank our volunteers! TWO flower beds would still like to be adopted! Adopters are asked to weed/mulch, and, if desired, plant annuals or perennials.

Help clean the RE wing! June 14 is the date—talk to Marge, an RE Committee member, Gene or Helen.

Carpeting in the Earth Spirits RE room is scheduled for the week of June 2. All furniture will need to be removed from the room after the June 1 RE class.

The facilities committee is interested in a few new committee members. Speak to Helen or Gene.

For those new to UU

Each summer, we relax a little; the piano player & choir get a break.

The office is open fewer hours.

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 on August 24. (There is always virtual water if you need it)

Parking Lot Improvements

The good news: No more mud!

We will be paving some of the grass track parking.

The bad news: We will have reduced parking while the site is prepared until the concrete is ready to be used. **The North lots (along the sidewalk on both sides of the circle) will be closed**

from June 9th to June 28th.

Use the grass parking lot at the east end of the building.

Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Preview of the Fairys!

YOU can attend the preview before the public even sets foot in our Fairy Land!

On June 8th right after the service (during the picnic), we will have a dress rehearsal. Parents with their children may visit the RE rooms to check out the workshops and sign their kids up for activities.

The older youth will begin putting together the scavenger hunt materials.

And, all of this will help the Fairies to know what they are missing before the festival actually begins.



Stay after the service and:

- ~stuff the bags to be given out at the Festival,
- ~set up tents and fencing outside,
- ~put up signage around the property,
- ~take fliers to be handed out in various places, etc.

Fundraising Committee

Fairy Festival Saturday, June 28, 10am-4 pm.

Annual Garage Sale: July 25 & 26—more on page 7

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

Membership

GREETER TRAINING

If you would like to be a greeter or want to brush up on your greeting skills, join us for greeter training and a light lunch on **August 10th**, following the service. This will be held simultaneously with UU Inquiry -- we will all have lunch together then split up for our separate meetings. If you cannot attend this training, another training session is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 21st.

UU INQUIRY CLASS

New to UU? Want to learn more about UU and/or the UUFWC?

Come to the next UU Inquiry to be held
August 10th, following the service

A light lunch will be provided and childcare is available (please let us know in advance if you will be needing childcare). If you plan to attend please tell Kelly Chandler or let the office know.)

General Assembly

Every June, UUs from around the country meet to discuss the business of the denomination. This year's meeting will be in Ft. Lauderdale starting June 25 thru 29th. The office will be closed during this time because everyone will be in Florida.

Elaine will try to send daily reports via the yahoo group.

You can watch online the proceedings at:
<http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/>
Elaine is available by cell phone

Summer Institute

July 13-July 19

Every July, UUs from around our district (Toledo to Pittsburgh and Jamestown NY to Wheeling WV) gather at Kenyon College for family FUN! There is programming for the kids, for the youth & for the adults and for everyone together. Swim, bike ride, play music, enjoy the talent shows or arts & crafts. Or just relax and read a book.

Brochures are available in the literature rack outside the office or online at: <http://www.omdsi.org/>

Finance Committee

Pledge update

The pledge drive wasn't as successful as we had hoped, but because of a very generous one-time anonymous donation we are able to plan to hire a sexton and a ministerial intern.

Eighty one families or individuals pledged \$134,845 in support of programming that costs us \$169,743. The \$34,898 difference will come from open plate collections, our anonymous donor and fundraising.

The finance committee is aware that more complete communication will be needed next year.

And please support the FUNdraising activities throughout the year.

Committee Council Report

Committee chairs and the board met to review highlights from each committee's accomplishments and plan for next year.

~Personnel committee is reworking the staff agreements and the charge to their committee.

~RE has been planning this spring & will be introducing a new curriculum next fall

~Facilities has arranged to pave parts of the parking lot. There is a new shed on the west side of the building that will house a larger mower and relieve storage problems in the building.

~The library will soon have a card catalog of its collection.

~Finance reported that there is a new position of deputy treasurer who will function as a back up to both the treasurer and the bookkeeper.

~Social Action has been busy with their new public witness work.

~Music committee will resume sharing their talents with other churches.

~Membership committee is discussing if and how to restructure their tasks.

Adam Keating trained all present in the use of the new defibrillator.

We reviewed the impact of the new bylaws and the new procedures for announcements and joys and concerns.

Hopefully, by the fall, we will have assembled a 'catalog' of the programs and growth opportunities offered here.

Fun in June

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

Tuesday, June 10th at 7:00pm

“Freedom To Know: Sex Education” shows how teenagers across the country are being kept in the dark about vital information that would help them prevent unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. Despite the fact that the abstinence-only programs have been proven ineffective, the federal government has spent more than a billion dollars on them since 1996.

This is the last ACLU film and discussion until September. We are very grateful to Jeff Miller of the ACLU



The June
Out for Dinner Night
will be held at
VegiTerranean
21 Furnace Street, Akron
Saturday, June 28th, 6:00 PM

Stylish, modern, bright...sound like a fun restaurant? New, original, trendy...sound like a meatless restaurant? VegiTerranean is all of that plus its food is savory and delicious and served with flair. It is very unique to the region. VegiTerranean is mainstream dining that just happens to be vegetarian. Reserve your place at the June event by signing the sign-up sheet on the Concessions Table at the Entrance Hall by June 22nd. We will carpool from the UUFWC at 5:00 PM. Call Charles Gaines if you need a ride or if you have a change of plans.

Summer Family Sing

Members and friends of all ages are invited to the Summer Family Sing, to be held each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. at the UUFWC from June 15 through August 17.

For more information, please contact Bill Alkire or Susan English



**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**
A UUFWC FUNdraising event

New Group in Town – North Central Ohio Lesbian Circle of Friends

<http://lgbtfriends.meetup.com>

A fun meetup for friends with plenty of socializing and support from other Lesbians in our local community. Monthly get-togethers include activities like seeing local bands (area culture/arts), globe-bowling, The Wilderness Center, Gay Pride Parade in Cleveland, Rails-to-Trails, Tuscora Park, Akron Aeros game, outing to Columbus, etc. And that's just to get started! Check us out!

We need you for the UUFWC's
Upscale Garage Sale

Friday, July 25, 3 – 7 p.m.
and Saturday, July 26,
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
3186 Burbank Road



It's time to check in the closets and under the bed for those treasures looking for a new home! This will be a unique sale, featuring a flea market as well as a special area for the sale of upscale items. These proceeds will benefit the UUFWC's operating budget. Individuals will also have the opportunity to market their own crafts.

Here's how you can help:

Donate: We need items that are **clean** and in **good condition**. We'll be advertising specific upscale items, so let us know any special treasures you'll be donating ASAP (tax receipts will be available). Clothing in baby and toddler sizes only. Books are fine! Items can be dropped off on the following dates:

Sundays, after July 6
8 – 10 am, Tuesday, July 22
6 – 8 pm, Tuesday, July 22
6 - 8 pm, Wednesday and Thursday, (during set up and pricing)

IMPORTANT: If you bring items during the sale, they must be priced and set out by the you!

Spread the word: Post a flyer in your work place or local business or e-mail it to friends. Let folks know that this is **no ordinary sale!**

Volunteer: Workers are needed **during the sale** and **to help set up and mark prices** on Wednesday and Thursday, beginning at 6 pm (no experience needed).

Rent a booth: Do you have a special craft you'd like to sell? You can rent your very own booth (card table) for a mere \$10. You'll keep all the proceeds from your sales.

Questions? Items to donate? Willing to volunteer?
Contact Mary Wicks
A UUFWC FUNdraising event

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
Summer Picnic: August 3 at 5-if you read a book this summer, come & share it with us.
Sept 21: River of Doubt by Candice Millard

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

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

SCRABBLE NIGHTS
During the summer: 2nd Sundays only 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. See calendar for date of current month's meeting 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 (solistice)
For information, contact Gail Carter

Other Important Information

June Birthdays

- 5 Phil Grimm
- 14 Laura Grimm
- 15 Gregg Sheffield
- 27 Tom Spencer
- 27 Jan Wheelis

June Anniversaries

- 5 John & Betty Schuler
- 12 Ruth & Brian Dykstra
- 12 Gregg & Sandy Sheffield

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.

Have a happy summer!! See you in the Fall.

Coffee Duty

- June 1 *available*
- June 8 *available*
- June 15 *available*
- June 22 *available*
- June 29 *available*



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.

ESCAPE TO VERMONT

September 26 – 28, 2008

Fourteenth Annual B&B Weekend

offered by the UU Church of Rutland, VT. Enjoy the beauty of Vermont, UU hospitality, and a choice of guided activities: hiking, kayaking, bicycling, antiques/arts, cider making historic tour, soaring tour, touring historic sites and quaint towns, and much more. Registration by August 1, \$250 (single) and \$450 (double).

After August 1, \$300 (single) and \$500 (double).

For more information contact uufoliagevermont@yahoo.com

A Look At the Year Ahead

June 25-29, 2008	General Assembly of Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. Fort Lauderdale, Florida We will be honored as a Breakthrough Congregation!
June 28, 2008	Fairy Festival 10 am– 4 pm see notice on page 6
July 13-19, 2008	Summer Institute: Family Fun with friends from the Ohio Meadville District.
July 27– August 2	UU Leadership Training Institute, Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA
Sept 28	Committee Fair—Have some extra time? Find out about ways you can spend time with your UU friends.

June 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Aluminum Cans 10:30am Flower Communion -Strawn 12:00pm Finance meeting 7:00pm Social Action Meeting	2 6:45pm Zen Meditation	3 7:30am Carpet installer 6:30pm Board Brown Bag 7:00pm Board Meeting	4 7:00pm choir	5	6	7
8 10:30am UU Pilgrimage -Mythos Team After service: All Church Picnic & Fairy Festival preview 7:00pm Summer Scrabble Nights	9 6:45pm Zen Meditation 7:00pm RE committee meeting	10 7:00pm ACLU Movie Series	11	12	13 7:30am X team meeting	14 9:00am RE Spring Cleaning Day
Please use grass lot at east end of building while concrete work is underway						
15 10:30am Living a Balanced UU Life-Strawn	16 6:45pm Zen Meditation	17	18 5:00pm Baker's Dozen	19 1:00pm Word Works Writers Group 7:00pm This I Believe Chal-ice Circle	20	21
Please use grass lot at east end of building while concrete work is underway						
22 10:30am What we Believe - Lowry 7:00pm WUUPs-solstice 7:30pm Life! Chalice Circle	23 6:30pm Women Wisdom Circle 6:45pm Zen Meditation	24 7:00pm Ohio-ans for Marriage Equality	25 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~Elaine, Marge and Anne at General Assembly ~~~~~	26	27	28 10 am– 4 pm: Fairy Festival 6:00pm Out to Dinner Night
29 General Assembly 10:30am The Environment: How We Live 10:30am Youth group	30 6:45pm Zen Meditation	<p>Regular Office Hours (Before June 15): Elaine (minister): Wed 6-9 pm, Thurs 10-2 pm, Fri 1-5 pm; Marge (DRE): Tues, Thurs 12-4 pm; Anne (Office): MWF 10—2 pm</p> <p>Summer Office Hours (after June 15): Monday through Thursday: 10 am—2 pm Elaine on Tues, Thurs and by appointment / Anne on Mon, Wed</p>				

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: Now to June 13: Elaine (minister): Wed 6-9 pm, Thurs 10-2 pm, Fri 1-5 pm; Marge (DRE): Tues, Thurs 12-4 pm; Anne (Office): MWF 10—2 pm

Summer Office Hours: After June 15: Monday through Thursday 10 am– 2 pm
Elaine: Tues & Thurs and by appointment / Anne: Mon & Wed

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