



The Newsletter for

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

of Wayne County

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

December 2008

December Service Schedule

December 7: 10:30 am *Finding the Light* [Rev. Elaine Strawn & Lorie Lerner]

December 8 is Bodhi Day, when Siddhartha Gautma achieved enlightenment. The holy days of this season focus on light.

December 14: 10:30 am *T'was the Night before the Holiday* [Mythos Team & the RE students]

This Intergenerational Service highlights our kids as we all grope for the meaning of the season[s].

December 21: 10:30 am *Celebration of Yule* [Spirit Paths, WUUPs, Choir]

The day of longest night is actually the Winter Solstice, when focus is placed on the coming light...as days grow longer.

December 24: 7:00 pm *Candle light Christmas Eve Service* [Rev. Elaine Strawn & Lorie Lerner]

We focus on the birth of Jesus on this night...and on the hope born in each of us.

December 28: 10:30 am *The Universal Principles: Kwanzaa* [Strawn]

Kwanzaa is a very particular service dedicated to empowering African Americans in this season. Its principles inspire us all.

UUF News

Holiday Open House
Saturday, December 13
from 1pm to 4 pm
At the home of
Stephen & Shannon Foskett
2138 Autumn Run Blvd, Wooster
Look for maps at the fellowship

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From the Board

Coming in January: Appreciative Inquiry (AI)

Now that we are an award-winning congregation, what's next? On what new goals shall we set our sights? How shall we work together to achieve them?

To explore new directions, you are invited to be part of a positive, life-giving process called Appreciative Inquiry. AI is about what you value and what is important to you. Just bring your appetite and your lifetime of experience.

You can sign up at the welcome table for the date you prefer -

Breakfast on Sunday, January 11, 8:30-10:00 a.m. or

Lunch on Sunday, January 18, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Volunteer help will also be appreciated. Watch for announcements and see the January newsletter for more details.
~Susan English

Social Action in Action

ADOPT A CLASS: each year the UFWC adopts children in a Head Start class. This year the families of these children are facing even greater financial stress than usual and will greatly appreciate help with providing Christmas gifts for their children. Many of us who don't have young children at home enjoy Christmas shopping for these kids. Members who wish to participate in the program select a gift tag with the age and sex of the child from the holly swag around the Social Action bulletin board in the rear of the meeting room and write your name on the sign up sheet. After you've selected the child, you purchase the gifts, wrap them, attach the tag and put them in the Library by December 14th.

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE HELPS THE WORKING POOR. In these days of economic distress the need is even greater. The working poor, men and women with children who work at minimum wage jobs in fast food restaurants or nursing homes see their meager pay unable to stretch for heating, rent, car repairs or prescription drugs. **Each month the UFWC has a collection for People to People, usually on the third Sunday of the month.** In addition to food donations, money contributions 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 21st 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 **CAREGIVING PUZZLE**, a free three-session caregiving program, will be presented at the UU Fellowship in conjunction with Hospice and Palliative Care of Greater Wayne County on **THURSDAY EVENINGS, JANUARY 8, 15, AND 22 FROM 7 TO 9 PM.** All past, current and future caregivers are invited to attend the classes. For information and program signup: See the display on the connections table or contact Ruth Dykstra at 330-264-4745 or brdy2@sssnet.com.

FOXFIELD PRESERVE PROGRAM TO BE HELD AT UU FELLOWSHIP AT 7:30 PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 29. This free program presented by the Wilderness Center and open to the public, is about the newly opened nature preserve cemetery operated by The Wilderness Center. Foxfield Preserve provides an economical, environmentally friendly alternative to modern burial as fewer resources are used in natural burial. As a nature preserve, it provides a wildlife habitat, a clean watershed, clean air and walking trails. In choosing burial at Foxfield Preserve people can give a permanent gift to one's family, community and the natural environment. Questions?— Contact: Ruth Dykstra and Betty Schuler.

The Minister's Column

In Psychology and Religion, Carl Jung wrote: “It is no easy matter to live a life that is modeled on Christ’s, but it is unspeakably harder to live one’s own life, as truly as Christ lived his.” This is a season of such challenges: Siddhartha Gautma achieved enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree, but this was no easy path for him, nor is it easy now for seekers who wish to be awake. In their battle against the oppressors, the Maccabees paid dearly for their religious freedom before reestablishing their sacred Temple with its oil lamps. The Christmas story is filled with unbelievable challenges to faith: Mary’s pregnancy, the magi and shepherds’ pilgrimages, Mary, Jesus and Joseph’s escape from Herod. Religion just isn’t easy. It requires no less than our full lives, whether that is authentic faith in a Sacred Other, or absolute determination to reach Enlightenment. A truly spiritual path always leads us on a quest to reach our fullest potential.

Every December I remember the words of religious educator Sophia Lyon Fahs: “each night a child is born is a holy night.” I might stretch it to include all the mini births which continue to occur throughout our lives as we discover more about ourselves, the world around us, our personal reason for being. All of life is a journey. Temptations could have sidetracked the Buddha from his goal; fear could have stopped the Maccabees from their quest for freedom. A desire to be ordinary could have erased the story of the Christ child. But none of those things happened. Who knows what great mission will call to us this season.

Director of Religious Exploration Column

The beautiful white snow brings us into the holiday season! But first let me tell about two Fall happenings. The children collected \$149 for UNICEF!

The CON was well-enjoyed (“awesome!”) by our five attendees. There were actually three adults who helped with driving and sponsoring: **Denise Bostdorff, Jay Klemme, and Nancy Hurt**. Our deep thanks to them.

This month the Mythos Team is organizing “Twas the Night Before the Holiday...,” a program involving all our children and youth. Four of our regular R.E. teachers ARE the Mythos Team, and so each of them is going work with one class: Kelly Chandler with the Blessed Bees; Deleasa Randall-Griffiths with the Earth Spirits; Marti Livingstone with the Triple Es; and Kevin Lowry with the STARS. They will rehearse during part of the class time on Sunday, December 7th. Each group will rehearse in its regular classroom. Performance will be on Sunday, December 14th during church time. PARENTS: Please send your child to class on the 7th even if you know that for some reason he/she will be absent on the 14th.

The Youth Group is planning a holiday gift exchange. They have signs up everywhere! You may sign up your child(ren) and/or yourself as an adult—on the Connections Table. Each child will be randomly paired with an adult, and the two will sit together on December 21st, when they will exchange their gifts (\$5.00 maximum and preferably hand-made). What a grand idea!

To recap:

- Dec. 7th—rehearsal for “Twas the Night Before the Holiday...”
- Dec. 14th—performance of “Twas the Night Before the Holiday...”
- Dec. 21st—gift exchange

Blessings of the Season!

News from the committees

Facilities

Volunteers are needed to make coffee after church. Training will be done on making the coffee and running the dishwasher. You do not have to provide snacks. (The R.E. classes provide snacks for the children.) Sign up at the Connections Table in the lobby.

Parking on the grass track area West of the circle should be used only if the ground is frozen. Parking on the grass track area East of the building can be used now and when the ground is frozen.

Need information about responsibilities? Contact the facilities co-chairs.

Gene Meyers & Helen Ostermiller

Fundraising

Many, many thanks to all of you that volunteered your precious time to help make the Madrigal Feaste a success! We appreciate you so and your willingness to help! This never can happen without the wonderfulness of YOU!

Many thanks, The Fundraising Committee



The Green Corner

This month we will focus on holiday tips and ideas, who has time to clean?

The *Consumer Reports website has some useful information to pass on:

* LED holiday mini lights rated very high. LED lights are better for our environment, run much cooler, and lower fire risk. LED mini lights use 1-3 kilowatt hours of energy, compared with incandescents that use 2-105 kwh. LED bulbs were still working after 4,000 hours, while each string of incandescents had one or more bulbs burned out after 2,000 hours.

* As for food gifts, Smuckers organic peanut butter is rated excellent, as are their jams, jellies and preserves.

* Best paper towels are Bounty, but I just use kitchen towels for everything and wash them.

* Food storage bags with a 'zipper' closure don't seal as well as the 'press the slot in the groove' type.

* Be cautious when buying 'cute' decorations made overseas, they may contain lead.

Equal Exchange Dark Chocolate Bar was rated 2nd best (out of 50) by Bon Appetite magazine this year. We rate our other EE products as excellent. These make great gifts.

From DIY network:

What if red wine spills on your carpet? Use club soda to flush it out. Sprinkle with borax while still wet and let dry before vacuuming. Still stained? Try lemon juice and borax (test on an inconspicuous spot first) let dry, vacuum.

Let us know what you've tried, and how it worked.

We wish everyone a safe, happy holiday season.

Submitted by Sue Gross on behalf of Social Action Committee

Calling All Children

"Twas the Night Before the Holiday..." to be performed by ALL our children and youth for **the Sunday service on December 14th!** Rehearsal will be during class time on December 7th.

Questions? Ask Marge.

Adult/Child Gift Exchange December 21st! Sign up on the Connections table. Each child will be randomly paired with an adult, and they will exchange gifts of \$5.00 or less--preferably hand-made. Sponsored by the Youth Group.

Casa Hogar Update

Social Action thanks everyone for their donations to Central American Medical Outreach (CAMO) for CASA HOGAR, to be built in Honduras.

We raised \$648.00 from the congregation and the Social Action committee contributed \$500.00. A generous donor matched these funds. All together, we are sending \$2296.00 to CAMO. This is enough to furnish almost 4 bedrooms, that's 16 people! We are proud of you.

UUFWC New Year's party!

If you don't have any plans for New Year's, yet, great. If you do, you might want to reconsider.

Mark your calendars for the UUFWC New Year's party!

Tentatively, this is what we have planned (more info to follow).

WHEN: 12-31-08, 8 PM - ?

WHERE: UUFWC

WHY: for auld lang syne

This is a potluck and BYOB, so please bring a dish to share and some drinks.

All ages are welcome.

Please bring board games instruments and/or drums if you play any.

Meet New Members

Jenny Grimsley and Shelley Dixon

Jenny and Shelley, who reside in Wooster, have five lovely children who keep them busy. When they are not spending time with their children, they both serve the public in interesting professions.

Shelley, who has a background in elementary education and accounting, is a Registered Dental Hygienist who sees patients four days a week, and also works as a post-secondary educator, as time permits. She is a member of the Wayne County Schools Career Center Advisory Board, and the volunteer staff at the Viola Startzman Free Clinic. Hobbies: Doing anything outside: mulching mowing, planting a garden, and playing in the snow.

Jenny was a French major, and a German translator working with military intelligence, who now serves Wayne County as a Federal Investigator, performing background checks for our nation's security. She works in as many as 15 counties across Ohio. She is a native of Southern California and loves living in Ohio. Jenny is currently rekindling her former hobby of doing voice-over work, and recently landed the voice job of a baby dinosaur for Hasbro Toy Company.

They enjoy the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship because it is a community of accepting and caring people, who realize that spreading knowledge to children, through the RE program, will help shape our world in a positive way.

Caring committee

Would you like to cook a meal, buy a meal, or just deliver a meal? Drive someone to doctor appointment?

Do an errand for someone?

If you have this can-do ability, we need you!

Caring Committee is compiling a list of all interested people who are willing to assist us with short term needs of our fellow UUs. Contact any care committee person - Norma Barber, Sherri Gochnauer, Laura Grimm, Kathy Stuart, or Sue Gross

December Events

Evergreen Workshop

Saturday, December 6, 2008

10:00 am– 2:00pm

Your \$5.00 donation entitles you to evergreens to make your own wreath, swag, and/or centerpiece for your own use.

Supplies are available at cost: wreath frames, wire, ribbon, candles, containers for centerpieces & oasis

We need folks to decorate our building, at no cost to you.

What to bring: greens to share, cutters/clippers, gloves, finger food to share.

Fair Trade gift baskets custom made while you wait!!

We'll use our ribbon at no cost to you.

KIDS: build a graham cracker house with icing and candy. 10:00 to 12 noon, Limit 10 children. If more are interested, we'll add a second session from 12noon to 2:00. \$5.00 for each child, family discount available.

Quilts for Kids No-Quilting Quilt Project

To benefit Every Women's House

Sponsored by Social Action and Religious Ed.

Join us for sewing Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm:

January 10 & February 7

March 14 & April 11, 2009

Bring your sewing machine, rotary cutter, scissors, pins, iron & ironing board, etc.

We will work in groups. Our hope is to have 3 groups to work on 3 twin-size quilt tops. Previous experience not necessary. We'll learn from each other as we create simple and easy designs.

Our goal is to have 3 quilt tops, backings and battings ready for the RE children to knot together April 12 or later.

We're accepting your donations of cotton fabrics, threads, batting, etc in a box under the Connections Table. Thank you!

Unique Gift Solutions at the Alternative Gift Market

Fed up with buying gifts that collect dust in a closet somewhere? This year, try giving an alternative gift. Instead of buying yet another sweater for Uncle Alex, purchase the necessary supplies to help an African woman give a healthy birth or a wheelchair, giving mobility to people with disabilities in Ecuador. Uncle Alex will receive an attractive card informing him about the gift given in his honor and you can rest assured that this year's gift won't be collecting any dust.

Attendees can browse through display booths featuring one-of-a-kind gifts that help those in need. One share in any project is only \$5. There will also be a special shopping list for children, with shares in projects at \$1 each. There is no charge to enjoy this festive atmosphere with food and fun for the whole family. The Alternative Gift Market is being held at the **First Presbyterian Church (621 College Ave.) in Wooster on Sunday, December 7th from 12-2:30 pm.** The market is sponsored by First Presbyterian Church, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Trinity United Church of Christ, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Westminster Presbyterian Church, and Wooster Mennonite Church.

World Crafts of Kidron will also be offering handmade items from fair trade partnerships throughout the world, and other non-profit organizations will offer fairly traded coffee, and other gifts that help those in need. You may also enjoy delicious lunch of homemade soups, pies, and other selections; the proceeds will be divided among four local relief organizations: People-to-People, The Salvation Army, Trinity's breakfast program, and "Meals Together" at Wooster United Methodist Church.

For more information, contact Mary Wicks

Bakers Dozen is collecting gently used holiday decorations/items you don't need anymore. They will be donated to Every Womens House. Nothing too fragile, please.



Salvation Army Bell Ringing Project

Spend an hour as a bell ringer for the Salvation Army and find out how much fun it can be. At the same time you will be supporting some of Wooster's neediest citizens. The Fellowship will be at Buehler's Milltown from 9 to 9 on **Thursday, December 11**. Sign up for a one-hour shift at the Connections Table.

The sign up sheet will be available until December 7th

LIBRARY NEWS

Did you know that every year the UUA publishes a meditation manual? Unitarians and Universalists have been publishing annual collections of prayers and meditations for over 160 years. In 1938, the Unitarians began the tradition of the Lenten manual. Like the Unitarians, the Universalists also published Lenten manuals. Then in 1961, when the two denominations merged, the Lenten manual evolved into the present-day meditation manual. Each collection consists of either poems and short pieces written by one person (often a UU minister) or is an anthology of pieces by several authors.

Whether you are looking for readings for personal reflection or readings for a special program (church service, wedding, memorial service), these manuals are a valuable resource. The Fellowship's collection is located on the shelves just behind the library door. Manuals may be checked out by signing and dating the card at the back of each book and then leaving the card in the wire basket provided.

The 2008 meditation manual, *SONATA FOR VOICE AND SILENCE*, was written by a minister from Ohio--Mark Belletini, the senior minister at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus. His pieces point out the silences in our lives, our need for silence, and even when to speak and when to remain silent.

Every Month

BAKERS DOZEN

COOKS AT EVERY WOMEN'S HOUSE

Anyone is welcome to join us.

Contact Cathy Miller or Sue Gross

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Third Sunday, during the school year, at 7 pm

Jan 18: The World without Us by Alan Weisman

Feb 15: Animal's People by Indra Sinha

Mar 15: Man's Search for Meaning by Victor Frankel

DRUMMING CIRCLE

Usually 3rd Friday nights at the fellowship at 7pm

Contact Lisa Ryan or David Paul

for more information

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/ BRIDGE/GAME NIGHTS

2nd Sundays from 7 to 9:30PM.

Bring yourself, and/or cards, a game and PEOPLE!!!

A snack to share if you like. We meet from 7 to 9 or 9:30 PM in the vestibule of the Fellowship. We are a group that encourages everyone to play at their own ability. Questions: Ken McDonald

SPIRIT PATHS & WAYNE UU PAGANS

Sunday, December 15 at 7 pm

Moon Ritual & discussion topic: This, That & the Otherworld.

Please bring a snack to share after ritual. We would love to have members of the congregation who are non-pagan but curious come check us out. If you would like more information on the pagan group please contact Gail Carter or 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

Other Important Information

December Birthdays

25 Rich Pratt

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.
DUE TO BEALL AVE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT: Students: Please meet in front of Health Center on Wayne Avenue at 10:10 am. The cars should have a sign saying 'Ride to UUFWC'

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|--------------------|----------------------|
| December 2 | Margo Curl |
| December 9 | Ruth Sewell |
| College of Wooster | Closed: Winter Break |
| January 18, 2009 | Tom / Sue Gross |

Coffee Duty

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| December 7 | K. Bowen, N. Barber & E. Gibson |
| December 14 | Cheryl Guthrie |
| December 21 | Shannon Foskett |
| December 28 | James Fox & Stephanie Strand |



Thank you to those that signed up to prepare coffee!

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. Supplies and directions are in the kitchen. Treats optional.

Curt Leben, a founding member of this fellowship, died on Friday, November 21 at the age of 91. Before coming to Wooster, he was instrumental in building the Frank Lloyd Wright Unitarian church in Madison, Wisconsin. He served as president of the UUFWC in the early 70's, and he and his wife Margaret have been dedicated members for many years. On the west wall of the fellowship sanctuary you can see two canvases painted by him when he attended the UU Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in North Carolina.

Curt was a plant pathologist and as such, had a real love of trees. Like a tree, he was deeply rooted in his family, his church, his community. But he also had many branches – loving sailing, the outdoors, painting, woodcarving, even building much of his own furniture.

We will miss Curt. Many in the fellowship today did not know him. As a creative individual, however, he did much to make the UUFWC what it is now. What he lived in years past extends into our future.

A Look At the Year Ahead

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| December 6 | 10 am: Evergreen Workshop Help decorate the fellowship or make and take something for your home. |
| Feb. 13-16, 2009 | Winter Institute, Salt Fork State Park. Winter family fun on the 4 day weekend. |
| March 27-28, 2009 | Ohio Meadville District Annual Meeting at First UU Church in Shaker Heights. Both Candidates for UUA president will be there Friday night. |
| June 24-28, 2009 | General Assembly. Salt Lake City, Utah. A new UUA president will be elected. Information on Rev. Peter Morales and Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman available on line. |
| July 12-18, 2009 | Summer Institute 2009- Theme speaker: Thandeka. |

| December | | | | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | 1 7:00pm Zen Meditation | 2 7:00pm Board Meeting | 3 7:00pm choir | 4 | 5 | 6 10:00am Evergreen Workshop |
| 7 10:30am Finding the Light-Strawn & Lerner 12:00pm Alternative Gift Market 12:30pm Intern Committee Meeting | 8 7:00pm Zen Meditation | 9 7:00pm RE committee meeting | 10 5:00pm Bakers dozen at EWH 7:00pm choir 7:00pm Youth Group | 11 | 12 | 13 1:00pm UU Holiday Open House-Fosketts |
| 14 Adopt A Class Gift deadline 10:30am T'was the night before the holiday -RE children & Mythos Team 12:00pm Finance Committee Meeting 2:00pm Curt Leben Memorial Service 6:00pm Yule Rehersal 7:00pm WUUPs 7:00pm Scrabble/Game Night | 15 7:00pm Zen Meditation | 16 | 17 7:00pm Knitting for Peace 7:00pm choir | 18 6:00pm Yule rehearsal | 19 7:00pm Drumming Circle | 20 |
| 21 Adult-Youth Gift Exchange People to People collection 9:00am Yule Rehearse 10:30am Celebration of Yule | 22 6:30pm Women Wisdom Circle 7:00pm Zen Meditation | 23 7:00pm OME | 24 7:00pm Candlelight Service Office Closed | 25 Christmas Office closed | 26 | 27 |
| 28 10:00am Youth Group 10:30am The Universal Principles: Kwanzaa-Strawn | 29 7:00pm Zen Meditation | 30 | 31 7:00pm NYE party | | | |

Regular office hours

~Rev. Elaine Strawn: Mon 1-5pm, Wed 6-9pm, Thursday 10am-2pm, Friday off
 ~Marge Thomas, Dir. Religious Exploration: Tues. and Thurs. from 11:30 to 4 pm
 ~Anne Wilson, office administrator: Mon, Wed, Fri: 10am -2 pm

About the UFWC

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 Exploration: Marge Thomas, e-mail: dre @ uufwc.org

Board of Directors: Phil Grimm, president, Pat Rodgers, vice president, Susan English, secretary, Cheryl Guthrie, Scott Crawford, Georgia Jaeb, Karen Skubik

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 the group, email the office: fellowship @ uufwc.org.

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