



The Newsletter for

January 2009

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

UUCW News

January Service Schedule

January 4: 10:30 am *At the Starting Gate* [Rev. Elaine Strawn]

A new year begins...with a new president, a strangled economy, and new requirements for diplomacy in the world. There is no way to know what this year will bring. What will be our spiritual quest in the midst of such change?

January 11: 10:30 am *Discerning the Call of Spirit in Your Life* [Traci Hanger-Hoffman]

Is the life I am living the same as the life that wants to live in me? What is it, in my heart, that I MUST do, be, and have? And why? What is that mysterious contribution to my life that goes beyond heredity and environment, beyond nature and nurture? How does Spirit collaborate to influence my life's path? From the writings of James Hillman, Parker Palmer, Viktor Frankl, Joseph Campbell, and others, we will explore these questions and consider possible applications to our own life circumstances.

January 18: 10:30 am *With Justice in Mind* [Rev. Elaine Strawn]

On this Sunday before the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday, we will focus on the model he set, and the ways in which we are called to follow this path.

January 25: 10:30 am *Mentoring Through STEPS* [Phyllis Jones]

This year's Social Action Sermon Series focuses on mentoring relationships. Phyllis Jones is the STEPS staff person in charge of establishing mentoring relationships with school-aged children

A lot is happening in January!

For more on:

- Appreciative Inquiry workshops-see page 5
- Caregivers classes- see page 4
- Creating Democracy workshop-see page 5
- American Red Cross blood drive- see page 5

Or just for fun:

- Circle Suppers & Out to dinner night- page 6
- OMD Winter Institute-page 6

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From the Board

The UUFWC has received the engineer's drawings that were requested after the City of Wooster approved our preliminary plans for a **parking lot expansion**. Tom Gross made a few small changes to the engineer's plans and presented them to the Board on Tuesday, December 2, 2008. The Board voted to move forward with the project. Please see Anne Wilson if you would like to look at the construction plans.

Dirt from other construction projects will be arriving soon. We are reviewing bids from excavators, and the Board will select a contractor who will prepare the site for concrete paving in the spring. If the weather cooperates and we can get the limestone base spread soon, we may be able to use the site for parking this winter.

Although we recognize the need for this parking, the Board wants to encourage the congregation to find ways to reduce our carbon footprint. One way we can do this is to facilitate car pooling. We are also going to set up a shuttle service from the parking lot on the east side of Wooster High School. This may be needed soon if the un-paved parking areas become unusable. These areas get very wet and soft after a thaw. Snow cannot be plowed there.

The Board will be setting aside part of the parking lot budget for landscaping. We welcome your input as the landscaping details are finalized. Thank you for your support.

For the Board...Phil Grimm, President

The Board has decided upon a **policy regarding selling during Sunday morning**. It has been determined that in the interest of maintaining a "sacred space" for all of us, there will be no selling on church property unless related directly to a fundraiser that only benefits the UUFWC. Thank you for respecting this new policy and please direct any related questions to a Board Member.

Social Action in Action

SOCIAL JUSTICE/COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY: in keeping with the first UU principle, "The inherent worth and dignity of every person" and the second principle, "Justice, equity and compassion in human relations", the Social Action Committee presents this annual series of three lectures to help us learn about social justice issues in our own community and how to become involved with them. This year the topic is mentoring, ways in which individuals can interact directly with people of all ages. Presentations will be given during the regular Sunday services on January 25, February 15 or 22, and March 22. Phyllis Jones, the Youth Mentoring Coordinator of STEPS at Liberty Center will speak in January. A donation of \$100 will be made to the agencies represented by the speakers, \$75 from the Social Action Committee budget and \$25 from the Worship Committee budget.

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 on the driveway. Money from recycling the cans goes to Quest for Peace for school supplies for children in Nicaragua.

ADOPT A CLASS: Thanks to all who were able to adopt a Head Start child for this program. Your generosity is overwhelming.

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE COLLECTION: January 19th is Souper Sunday. Please put donations of canned soup in the labeled bin in the rear of the meeting room. Financial donations are also welcome and can be put in the labeled jar on the table in the rear. Make checks payable to People to People.

The Minister's Column

January is a time to start new things. I would like to ask you to start thinking about something new. On Sunday mornings, seating is a little hard to find. It concerns me: how welcoming are we if we seem cramped for space? Don't jump to conclusions yet...let me finish. The same question occurs to me as I watch folks trying to navigate the lobby during coffee hour; and again as I look into the RE rooms.

I am NOT suggesting a building program. Of course, I am not suggesting that we each choose a Sunday to "stay at home." I am raising the idea of offering two identical services. I know there are fears that this will create two congregations and that we won't know one another. However, I wonder how well we know one another now: together but in a crowded space.

NOTHING is going to happen fast. I have spoken to the board, had exploratory conversations with staff. My request is that we each breathe deeply and begin a conversation together, with an eye on August, 2009 as a starting time IF we choose to make this change. It will take this long to share our visions, our concerns, our commitment. Opportunities will arise during the winter and spring of this year for you to share your insights and visions, also. Only as we truly listen to one another can we continue to create this warm, environmentally friendly and socially committed community.

Let me offer a vision: There are two services on Sunday morning: one at 9:00am and another at 10:45, with coffee hour in the middle. Religious Exploration offers a "one-room classroom" experience for one service and regular classes during the other. One service offers talk back after the sermon and the other offers a choir. We can be more creative with our seating arrangements. Finally, for each service, five family units [singles, couples, families] volunteer to be the "core" group to get us started.

Breathe. What we have wanted all along is to offer a home to ourselves and to all others who want to be here and we want to do it in a friendly, fiscally responsible way. We have always wanted to be a "force" for social justice and a voice of liberal religion in our communities. We have and are...and there is more to do. Think. Talk. And show up in community forums coming in the months ahead. "Bigger" may not be our goal...but "better" always has been.

Director of Religious Exploration Column

The R.E. Committee is pleased to announce the appointment of Skylar Breiner as Youth Group representative.

Our thanks to the Mythos Team for planning and directing the holiday performance on December 14th. Also thanks to the Youth Group for their organization of the Adult—Child Gift Exchange.

There will be a Senior High CON January 9th—11th at the UU Church of Columbus. At this writing I do not yet know when forms are due. I'll get with each Senior High student when I know. We will find a sponsor.

Our GRAND midyear Support and Planning Meeting for all R.E. Facilitators and Nursery Caregivers will take place on January 10th from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. The program will be "Children the Challenge" presented by the following panel members: Janice Baxstrom, Special Education Inclusion Teacher at Wooster High School; Adam Keating, Pediatrician at Wooster Cleveland Clinic; and Lori Lerner, Head of Infection Control and Inspections at Akron Children's Hospital.

I wish everyone a good and healthy New Year!

This just in: Rocky Horror Picture Con—Forms must be postmarked by December 29th!!

News from the committees

The Pledge Drive Is Coming— But What the Heck Is a Pledge and Why Can't It Drive Itself?!

If you've never been part of an organization that relied on pledges, it can be hard to understand what a pledge is and why it is important.

A pledge, at base, is a promise or vow. More pertinent to our purposes, a pledge is also something offered as security for the keeping of a promise or the payment of a debt or as a guarantee of good faith. (Ouch, sounds pretty intimidating, but keep reading. . . .)

Because the Fellowship can only continue to meet our community needs through the financial contributions of its members and friends, we on the Stewardship Committee annually ask each of you to consider what amount you might "pledge" to contribute to the Fellowship during the course of the coming year.

The reason that pledging is so important is that it allows the Fellowship to plan responsibly for the year ahead. If we know that we can count on a certain amount of money flowing into the organization, then the Fellowship can decide how best to meet our expenses with regard to our building, our staff, and our programming. Without that information, it's difficult to plan and to know what we can afford.

Of course, even with your pledge of financial support, we understand that circumstances sometimes change and that may mean that you need to modify how much you give. Nonetheless, the benefits to the Fellowship of receiving pledges from friends and members far outweigh the possibility that pledges sometimes have to be changed.

The kick-off for this year's pledge drive will be February 22. In the weeks ahead, we hope you will consider how much you value the Fellowship in your life and how much you might be willing to pledge toward its on-going health.

-Denise Bostdorff and Mary Wicks, Co-Chairs of the Stewardship Committee

Adult Education Classes

THE CAREGIVING PUZZLE

Thursday evenings, Jan. 8, 15, and 22 from 7 to 9 PM

A free three-session caregiving program will be held at the UU Fellowship. All past, present or future caregivers are invited to the classes, which are presented in conjunction with Hospice & Palliative Care of Greater Wayne County. For information and program signup come to the connections table in the Hall of the Fellowship or you can reach UU contact person Ruth Dykstra. The program is sponsored by the UUF Social Action and Caring Committees.

FOXFIELD NATURE PRESERVE PROGRAM

Thursday, January 29 at 7:30 pm.

This free program presented by Jennifer Quinn, steward of Foxfield Preserve of the Wilderness Center, is about the newly opened nature preserve cemetery. 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 natural burial or cremated remains burial at Foxfield Preserve, people can give a permanent gift to one's family, community and natural environment. This program is sponsored by the Social Action Committee of UUF. UUF contacts are Ruth Dykstra and Betty Schuler.

Appreciative Inquiry In January

Everyone who cares about UUFWC is invited to attend an Appreciative Inquiry Workshop in January. The topic of the workshop will be INCLUSIVE GROWTH. Below are some “frequently asked questions” about Appreciative Inquiry.

What is Appreciative Inquiry?

Appreciative Inquiry (AI) has been called a “life-giving” process for organizational change and renewal. To learn more about AI, see our website www.uufwc.org

What happens at an AI workshop?

We start with stories—your stories about a positive peak experience in your life when you felt “drawn to an organization, motivated to become involved, and proud to be part of a positive change process.” From these stories we will draw core values and roles to complete the “discovery” stage of a four-part process. Later in the year, volunteers will turn our stories into images, goal statements, and actions for UUFWC. Please plan to arrive on time and participate actively, without interruption, for the whole 1-1/2 hour session.

How can I sign up? There is a sign up sheet on the Connections Table in the UUFWC foyer or contact the office [fellowship@uufwc.org or 330-262- 9194] Please register for *either* the January 11 Breakfast Workshop *or* the January 18 Lunch Workshop. For childcare and children’s meals during the workshop, please indicate their ages.

What’s the menu? Chef extraordinaire SUE GROSS offers the following menus:
BREAKFAST on Sunday, January 11, 8:30-10:00 a.m.
Menu: pancakes, oatmeal, applesauce, and beverage
LUNCH on Sunday, January 18, 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Adult Menu: soups (including 1 vegan choice), bread, & beverage Children’s Menu: peanut butter & jelly sandwich & milk

How can I help as a volunteer?

Please sign up for the week you are *not* participating in the workshop. To enjoy a meal, the set-up crew can eat *after* their job is done; the clean-up crew can come *early* to eat. We need volunteers the following times:

For January 11: Set-Up: 8:00-9:00 a.m.
Clean-Up: 9:00-10:25 a.m.

For January 18: Set-Up: 12:00-1:00 p.m.
Clean-Up: 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Any other questions? Please contact Susan English

Fundraising

We did it! We netted \$1,200 from the Madrigal! Thanks to all of you! Look for more FUNdraising projects this year!

Ever need a service or product and think, wow! I wonder if someone in the Fellowship does this so I could support people of a like mind? Well, wonder no more! Beginning in January, we will be creating a **UU Yellow Pages**. A resource that will list different businesses, products and services that we can use to support one another. Stay tuned for more information!

Creating Democracy

A Participatory Workshop

On How To Change Laws

And Assert Citizen Authority And Power

Saturday, January 31, 2009, 10 am - 3 pm

THE WORKSHOP IS FOR CITIZENS...

-Who want more power by learning new skills and strategies to benefit and protect their families, communities and environment

-Who want to create or make more effective a community group that can influence public policy, create laws directly and/or create viable local alternatives

WHY THIS WORKSHOP...

-Individuals don’t often know what they can do in their own communities to create alternatives to corporations, corporate governance and elite control

WHAT IS COVERED...

-Democratic/self -determination strategies from elsewhere across the US and around the world

-Specific organizing skills to bring change

-Specific local alternatives in Ohio to corporations, corporate governance and elite control

PRESENTER/FACILITATOR:

Greg Coleridge, Director of the Economic Justice & Empowerment program of the Northeast Ohio American Friends Service Committee [AFSC, www.afsc.net], a Quaker social action organization. Coleridge is also on the national board of the Program on Corporations, Law & Democracy [POCLAD, www.poclad.org and former national board member of Common Cause.

REGISTRATION: \$15 (includes lunch)

Sponsored by the Wayne County Progressive Network

January Events

Beat the winter blues -
New Round Of Circle Suppers In January!
Please sign up for another round of circle suppers.

WHEN: Saturday, January 10, 2009 @ 7PM

Signup sheets are on the connections table, or contact Sofie/Alptekin. Please RSVP by Sunday, January 4, 2009.

We will need the following information in order to match you with hosts and other guests:

- Name, email address, phone number
- # of adults, # of children (please give ages for children)
- Dish you can bring
- Whether you can host (please give maximum # of guests you can accommodate)
- Dietary needs (allergies etc.)

Note: Circle suppers are a fun way of getting to know other people in the congregation. They are really easy to participate in: you sign up, we match you with a host and other guests, you attend the potluck and have fun.

The JANUARY
Out for Dinner Night
will be held at

The City Square Steakhouse
Market Square, Wooster
Saturday, January 24th, 6:00 PM

The City Square Steakhouse has made a commitment "to remain the highest quality steakhouse in the region". Guided by Mike Mariola, an award-winning chef, enjoy an exceptional experience in food, drink and service in a newly remodeled setting with a sleek contemporary edge. Reserve your place at the January event by signing the sign-up sheet on the Concessions Table in the Entrance Hall by January 18th. We will meet at the restaurant at 6:00 PM. Call Charles Gaines if you need a ride and especially if you have a change of plans.



Ohio Meadville District Winter Institute 2009

The 9th Annual Winter Institute will be held at Salt Fork State Park near Cambridge, OH on **February 13-16, 2009** (President's Day Weekend). This relaxing "schedule and stress free" weekend is an intimate gathering for UUs of all ages. There are outdoor activities like sledding, hiking and cross country skiing to do; the pool and hot tub are available for use; and there's always a few board games and puzzles around for those who want to be inside.

Registration deadline is January 23rd. To learn more and to register visit the OMD website at www.ohiomeadville.org/conference/omdwi.html

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!



Blood Drive At the UU Fellowship

We are in a blood emergency.
If you can donate,
please consider donating at the fellowship.
Monday, January 5, 2009
From 1-5 pm

Library News

Integral Spirituality: a Startling New Role for Religion in the Modern and Postmodern World by Ken Wilber 204 Wilb

Presents a theory of spirituality that combines the truths of modernity and postmodernity--including the revolutions in science and culture -- with the essential insights of religion. Proposes that the world's great religions can facilitate human development and help establish a global society that honors and includes all the phases of life.

Here If You Need Me: a True Story by Kate Braestrup 813.54 Brae

Author's remarkable journey from grief to faith and happiness as she holds her family together after her husband's death, and finds her calling as a UU chaplain to search-and-rescue workers. Dramatic, funny, uplifting. Winner of the 2007 Melcher Book Award.

Science and the Search for God by Gary Kowalski 215 Kowa

Where does faith fit into a universe of quarks and evolutionary biology? Intended as an introduction to process theology, this book explores fascinating new links between religion and science, with a built-in study guide. Author is minister at First UU Society of Burlington, VT.

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 Merge!
Sunday, January 31 at 6 pm
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
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

January Birthdays

7	Corina Klies
8	Jon Spunger
11	Casey Hoy
14	Michael Jaeb
16	Lois Grant
21	Kay Bowen
25	Gail Carter
27	Paul Evans

January Anniversaries

2 Bev Wire & Bruce Carden

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'

January 18	Tom/Sue Gross
January 25	Margo Curl
February 1	Ruth Sewell

Coffee Duty

January 4	Margaret Minick-Blake
January 11	<i>Available</i>
January 18	<i>Available</i>
January 25	<i>Available</i>



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.

A Look At the Year Ahead

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.

JANUARY 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2	3
4 Aluminium Can collection 10:30am At the Starting Gate-Strawn 12: Membership comm. 12:15 Ministerial Intern Committee Meeting 7:00pm Social Action Meeting	5 1:00pm Blood Drive 7:00pm Zen Meditation	6 7:00pm Board Meeting	7 7:00pm choir	8 7:00pm Caregiving Puzzle	9 Rocky Horror Picture Con -Columbus	10 9:00am RE mid year planning mtg 10:00am No Quilting Quilt Project 7pm: Circle Suppers
					Elaine will be at a class in Chicago	
11 8:30am Appreciative Inquiry Breakfast 10:30am Call of the Spirit in Your Life-Hangar-Hoffman 12:00pm Finance Comm. Meeting 7:00pm Scrabble/Game Night	12 1:00pm X Team 7:00pm Zen Meditation	13 7:00pm RE committee meeting	14 7:00pm choir 7:00pm Youth Group	15 1 pm Writers Group 7:00pm Caregiving Puzzle 7:00pm PFLAG	16 7 pm Drumming Circle	17
18 People to People collection 10:30am With Justice in Mind-Strawn 12:30pm Appreciative Inquiry Lunch 7 pm Book Group	19 7:00pm Zen Meditation 7 pm: Community Martin Luther King Jr. Service -Wooster High School	20	21 5:00pm Bakers dozen at EWH 7:00pm choir	22 7:00pm Caregiving Puzzle	23	24 6:00pm Out to Dinner Night
					Elaine will be at a class in Chicago and from January 19-24	
25 10:00am Youth Group 10:30am Mentoring Through STEPS-Jones	26 1:00pm X Team 6:30pm Women Wisdom Circle 7:00pm Zen Meditation	27 7:00pm OME 7:00pm Committee council	28 7:00pm choir 7:30pm SOS chalice circle	29 7:00pm Green Cemeteries-Fox Field Preserves	30	31 10:00am Creating Democracy 6:00pm Spirit Paths

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
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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 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!

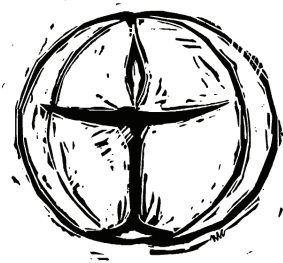
Website: www.uufwc.org Streaming audio now available. Can't make the service? Listen online!
Webmaster: Lee Simpson

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.

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

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