



The Newsletter for

May 2009

# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

of Wayne County

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

UU News

## May Service Schedule

### **May 3: 10:30 am *Beltane* [Spirit Paths]**

Spirit Paths will be celebrating Beltane or May Day, on Sunday, May 3rd with the congregation. Since ancient times the May season has been a time of celebration and merriment. Spirit Paths intends to continue this tradition. Join us as we welcome spring. Immediately after the service we will have the dance around the Maypole. Dancers are needed.

### **May 10: 10:30 am *The Spiritual Life of Children* [Rev. Elaine Strawn]**

Robert Coles traveled the globe interviewing children about their spiritual outlook. Our children have much to teach us. We will dedicate Michael Tokar this morning.

### **May 17: 10:30 am *RE Sunday* [Marge Thomas & Norma Barber]**

This is a time when the children and youth show the congregation some of what they have been studying this year.

### **May 24: 10:30 am *Question Box Sermon* [Lorie Lerner]**

There is a UU tradition of having a Questions Box Sunday once a year. Watch for a box on the Connections Table in the entryway. Insert those questions you've always had about UUism. Lorie will use one or several of them to construct a sermon for this Sunday.

### **May 31: 10:30 am *Flower Communion* [Rev. Dr. Elaine Strawn & Lorie Lerner]**

Every year we celebrate this beautiful tradition begin by Nobert Chopek in Czechoslovakia. We each bring a flower from our yards [or the fields around us], combine them to make a lovely bouquet and then take home a different flower as a reminder of the beauty of nature and community.

### ***Annual Meeting May 17***

All members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting, held after the service on May 17. At that time, we will be **electing 3 members for the board of directors for terms that will expire in 2013.**

**The slate from the nominating committee is: Lois Grant & Bill Alkire.** We will also be voting for a new nominating committee. There are 6 people running for 5 positions. The six are: Mary Wicks, Judy Smith, Jeff Gochnauer, Kat Gibbons, Gail Carter, Bert Bishop. Jeff is willing to be chair if elected.

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## ***From the Board***

We can never say thank you enough, and here are some well-deserved thank yous.

Thank you to the **Stewardship Committee** which is comprised of Denise Bostdorff, Mary Wicks, Ken McDonald, Jon Sprunger & Morgan Bostdorff-O'Rourke. They have worked diligently and thoughtfully on this year's pledge drive. They have carefully considered our budget with the desire to meet fair compensation for the UUFWC's six part-time employees - but - at the same time were sensitive to the effects of these economic times on our members. They have been generous with their thank yous to our donors, and only after considerable thought did they go back to our members to ask for additional support so we can reach this year's pledge goal.

The Stewardship Committee would not be able to make their important decisions without the diligent work of the **Finance Committee** which is comprised of Bert Bishop, Jay Klemme, John Schaeffer, Lee Simpson, Carol Morrison, Dave Drumm, Anne Wilson, and Carol Noel. The board is very thankful to have these dedicated members who are able to understand the intricacies of balancing our budget when they see the many ongoing and future needs of our congregation. The budget is always available for all members to view, but we will give it special attention at the annual meeting on May 17th. Thank you to the finance committee.

Finally, thank you to all of **YOU** who pledged this year. The economic future of our country is not clear, but the strength of our fellowship is clear. We have many committed individuals willing to write a number down on their pledge card in support of our congregation. ***Thank you!!***

## ***Social Action in Action***

In the April column several programs sponsored by the Social Action Committee that benefit local, national and international projects at no cost were described. Here are some more. These are different because although they cost nothing, they do involve physical involvement.

### **MORE PROJECTS THAT COST NOTHING:**

**Cakes 4 Kids:** if you enjoy baking, birthday cakes for children who, along with their mothers are temporary residents of Every Woman's House, are needed. Baking ingredients are supplied and cake decorating workshops are held periodically throughout the year. Contact Sue Gross for more information.

**Family Feast:** a meal is cooked by the Baker's Dozen chalice Circle at Every Woman's House for the residents once a month. All ingredients are purchased with funds raised at the annual Birthday Cake Sunday. If you enjoy being with others and helping to prepare a meal, contact Sue Gross.

**Adopt a Highway:** the UUFWC has adopted a one mile stretch of State Route 3 near Shearer Equipment. Three times a year in spring, summer and fall, weather permitting, we pick up debris on the road on a Saturday morning. Safety equipment and bags are supplied. With a number of helpers the job takes less than two hours. Watch for announcements or contact Jay Klemme.

**No Snack Sunday:** if you enjoy making coffee for after the service, but don't like to deal with setting up refreshments, volunteer for the second Sunday of the month. The Social Action Committee has suggested that we limit refreshments after the service on that Sunday to coffee only to bring awareness of those struggling due to the current economic conditions. Contact Anne Wilson or sign up on the list on the bulletin board across from the coffee window.

**Group Letter Writing:** opportunities are provided periodically during the year to voice concerns in writing to local and national law makers and other public officials about issues consistent with the UU principles. A fact sheet is distributed the Sunday before the letter writing and sample letters to copy or simply sign along with addressed envelopes are provided.

**Magazine Racks:** share your concerns about social justice issues with other UUs by donating your social justice related magazines and newsletters to the racks in the rear of the meeting room. Take any that are of interest to you. No need to return them.

## ***The Minister's Column***

Writing in the 1930s and 1940s, Paul Tillich spoke to the liberal heart. World War I had silenced the voices of liberal Protestants' hopes. The dark years to follow were marked with the descent of humanity into the depths of sinful nature. Tillich provided a path back into a theological understanding of the human as an extant being who had innate integrity. Some of his words have stayed with me. "If I use a person as a thing, I myself lose my dignity as a person..."

As we mark the anniversary of the Columbine massacres and as we hear about trafficking of US guns into Mexico and the drug traffic back into the United States, as we watch the unfolding power structure in Israel and read of witch hunts in Africa it would be easy to think the worst of humanity. To postulate that humans are born in sin and cannot redeem themselves would be to provide a certainty about history's unfolding. And it would assure us that we have no responsibility to be change agents. Of course, this has never been Unitarian Universalism's explanation. Ungrounded as we may seem to some, our chalice never fails to burn with the light of hope in humanity and in the interconnections which keep us all alive...and evolving.

The end of this month we will celebrate Flower Communion. This ritual celebrating nature's beauty amidst the devastation of World War II Europe was created by Nobert Copek, a Czech Unitarian who held onto this hope of ours. Sure of the goodness and life which lies under the surface of fear, he brought his community together to share this hope with the symbol of the single flower. No Pollyanna, Copek lost his life for his humanitarian efforts, but his hope continued on in this ritual and in his writings. Join us on May 31. Bring a flower from your garden, your lawn, the roadway. Together they make a bouquet. And together we make hope.

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## ***Director of Religious Exploration Column***

We had a good time with the "Coyote" story on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to Norma Barber, Lisa Ryan, Jenny Grimsley and the cast! The impromptu jam session after the service was a hoot! Thanks, too, to all of you wonderful people who brought in your drums. I know they are very precious to you. The hanging at the back of the stage was made by Marti Livingstone and her EEEs. It will be hanging in their classroom for a closer look.

The last CON of the year will be held from May 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> at West Shore Church. Paper work is due to me on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. (Potential attendees have been notified earlier.)

May 17<sup>th</sup> is R.E. Sunday. This is a time when the children and youth show the congregation some of what they have been studying this year.

Our OWL class continues. We will finish on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

And the R.E. year will end on May 31<sup>st</sup>. It has been a very good year, probably the most exciting for me that I've ever had!

Marge

## News at the UUFWC

### More from Social Action

**PEOPLE TO PEOPLE COLLECTION - May 17<sup>th</sup> is Saltine Sunday.** Please put boxes of saltine crackers 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. This is the last People to People collection of the church year. Collections resume in September.

### A reminder

Parents are expected to monitor their children on the playground.  
Please make sure that they stay on the back playground and do not go out front where construction is on-going.

### Library News

The library's collection of audio-visual materials is gradually expanding and is housed on the top shelf of the east bookcase. You will see the labels, but will probably need a step stool (in the kitchen closet) to reach them. Don't let that deter you, however. Items of interest include:

A series of DVDs put out by the ACLU entitled *The Freedom Files*. These include topics such as *Sex Education, Surveillance, Lesbian & Gay Families, The Death Penalty, Torture & Unlawful Imprisonment, and Same-Sex Couples*.

A CD of a lecture given at the Spring Academy of Religion by Dr. Charles Kammer (COW professor of religious studies) entitled *Hubris, Humility, and the Human Future*.

This is a fine presentation of the ethical and religious implications of globalization and how we might respond to it.

A set of two CDs entitled *The Big Picture: What the Religions of the World Teach Us about the Nature of Ultimate Reality*. Mystical in vision, Huston Smith unites the half worlds of science and religion.

Next month?--more on the audio-visual collection.

### Congratulations to both of you

After 5 years of classes in Chicago our own Elaine Strawn becomes:

**Rev. Dr. Elaine Strawn.**

On May 17th she will receive her Doctor of Ministry from Meadville Lombard Seminary.

The end of May is also the end of **Lorie Lerner's** 9 month internship with our congregation. We will miss you Lorie.

### Facilities Committee

In about 3 hours, 32 volunteers spread about 50 cubic yards of mulch in the playground area and our flower-beds. We're all extremely grateful for everyone's hard work to make our church pretty!

NEEDED: A few good folks--to care for a small area of our grounds. Three of the flower beds around the circle have NO ONE to care for them. Take one--mulch it, plant it if you'd like (there are beds that now have plants to share), and accept the kudos and gratitude of those who cannot! It is just a few hours a month during the growing season.

Mowing has begun. You can help if you have a couple hours a week.

Work with wood? We need to re-mount memorial tree plaques on squares of wood.

Talk to Gene Meyers, Helen Ostermiller, or Ruth Sewell to help with any of these!

**Adult RE Class**  
**Reverse Catechism [Rev. Elaine Strawn]**

A regular catechism consists of standardized questions which a minister asks of confirmation students before they can join the church. The prospective members memorize the answers to these questions in order better to understand their faith tradition.

On Thursday nights in May, we will reverse this process. The “students” will ask the questions, the minister will try to answer them and then everybody will discuss their own viewpoint. It isn’t that Unitarian Universalism has no theology or traditions to learn. There are many. It is simply that each new generation builds on the religious ideas of our fore bearers and build a theology of life for the current age.

Come if you are brand new and confused, come if you have been here forever. It doesn’t matter. The box for the first round of questions will be in the library. After then, we will pass it at the end of every class session. Please call the office several days in advance if you will need childcare.

We will meet Thursday evenings at 7pm in the EEE room. Call Elaine if you have questions.

**Wanted: Web savvy volunteer**

We are thinking about entering into the Face Book universe and wonder whether anyone out there in the Twilight Zone might have skills, interest and time who would be willing to get us started.

Contact Anne in the office. Fellowship @ uufwc.org

**Take our on line survey**

We want to know what you think about 2 services. Find the link at [www.uufwc.org](http://www.uufwc.org)

**Report from the  
District Assembly meeting**

Once a year, representatives from the congregations in the Ohio Meadville District gather to conduct business, learn, and share.

Tom, John & Sue Gross, Jay Klemme, Phil Grimm, Carol Noel, Anne Wilson, Elaine Strawn, Lorie Lerner attended.

Susan Ritchie will be our new UUA trustee (term to start after General Assembly).

Pat Rodgers was honored as a ‘Rising Star’ in the district.

Sue Gross came in second in the ‘Unsung Hero’ category. She maybe 2nd in the district, but she is certainly our Unsung Hero.

There is more information about what happened at the Assembly at

<http://www.ohiomeadville.org/annmtg/districtassembly.html>



Look for the **weekly blood pressure check** service every Sunday for 30 minutes following the service.

They are in the corner of the great room near the arbor.

This service is provided courtesy of the Healing the Whole Person Chalice circle.

The Healing the Whole Person Chalice circle has also started a **data base of medical equipment**. Currently we have a walkers, crutches for short and tall people, wrist/thumb braces, knee braces and a body brace. We could really use a wheel chair for the Fellowship in case of emergency. All of the above items are with the original owners. We just put you in contact with them. We could use more items.

Please call Ken McDonald

## **May Events**

### ***Mother's Day Cakes***

**Saturday, May 9, 2009 from 10 am to noon**

Help the children at Every Woman's House decorate cakes for their mothers.

Contact Sue Gross if you are interested in helping.

### ***Ladies Tea***

**Saturday, May 9, 2009 from 2-4 pm**

at the home of Jan Wheelis.

We will plan to carpool to her house from the UU.  
Bring a finger food to share and wear your hats!

### ***Circle Suppers/Circle Lunches***

We're trying something new this month in order to give folks more flexibility with times, especially those with small children and folks who may come from out of town. You can choose to either attend a Circle SUPPER on **Saturday evening, 5-30-09**, at 7 PM or a Circle LUNCH on **Sunday, 5-31-09** at 1 PM. Depending on the response we get, we'll either keep this format or fine-tune it further.

Please either use the sign-up sheet on the connections table, or send an email Sofie and indicate the following:

1. Name
2. Phone #
3. Email address
4. # of people in party (gives ages of children, if applicable)
5. Dish you can provide
6. Whether you can host
7. Do you have any dietary needs others should be aware of
8. Date you would like to attend: 5-30-09 @ 7 PM  
**OR 5-31-09 @ 1 PM OR DON'T CARE.**

We'll then match you up with others to create a fun event for all. Questions? Contact Sofie Dittmann

### ***Lobby for Equality***

Wednesday, May 13

WE need to share our stories and priorities with our legislators to gain LGBT equality. A bill providing equality in housing and employment is this year's priority. Legislators need to know that we in rural Ohio care about these issues. You will receive tips and you won't be alone—don't let lobbying fear stop you!

Register now on-line for Equality Ohio's Lobby Day at <http://equalityohio.org/> (registration deadline is 5/4). Then sign up on the Connections Table, or talk to Helen Ostermiller so that we can arrange carpooling for the day. It is an enjoyable day with like-minded friends, helping make a difference.

The May

### ***Out for Dinner Night***

will be held at

Thyme the Restaurant

716 N. Court Street (Rt. 42 N.), Medina

6:00 PM, Saturday, May 16th

Note that this is the THIRD Saturday in May.

Looking for globally inspired excellent cuisine with worldly influences in a setting of fashionable modern urbanity? Sure, and in a word it is Thyme. The best reviewed restaurant in Medina county and beyond is waiting for us this May 16th. Our reservations are limited to only 12 people so please reserve your place early by signing the sheet on the Connections Table in the Entrance Hall well before May 10th. We will meet at the UUFWC at 5:00 PM and carpool to Medina. Call Charles Gaines if you need a ride or if you have a change of plans.

**You can LISTEN to 'UU World' as well as read it online at [www.uuworld.org](http://www.uuworld.org)**

<http://www.uuworld.org/issues/audiorecordingspring2009.shtml?n>

Or from [www.uuworld.org](http://www.uuworld.org), click on the 'current issue' and follow the link to the 'audio index page'.

### ***Who were you before you were you?***

This chalice circle will be accepting new members on Thursday, May 28 at 4 pm at the fellowship hall. The group will continue to work on past life regressions that help you on your journeys.  
Mindy Albright

### ***Summer Institute***

At long last, information on Summer Institute is available.

If you have access to the internet go to:  
[www.omdsi.org](http://www.omdsi.org)

You can download a pdf of the brochure and even register on line. There are also pictures of last years Summer Institute.

### ***Basic Principles Of Health***

Monday, May 11, 7:00 P.M.

John L Fielder, DO, DC, ND, Osteopath & Lifestyle Consultant will cover the basic principles of health in a lecture on Monday, May 11, 2009, at 7:00 P.M. in the sanctuary of the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship Church in Wooster, Ohio.

He will be sharing nearly 50 years of experience in assisting people to regain their health by simple natural methods.

With his unique background, not only in the human health field, but also in agriculture, horticulture, and animal husbandry, Dr. Fielder is able to provide a well-rounded approach to his subject.

Dr. Fielder also operates the Academy of Natural Living. You can learn more about Dr. Fielder, his practice, and his philosophy of life at  
[www.johnfielder.com.au](http://www.johnfielder.com.au).

### ***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  
May 17: Persepolis by Mariane Satrapi  
We take the summer off. Share your summer reading with us at a picnic in August!

**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!**  
Next meeting: Saturday, June 20 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***

### Coffee Duty

May 3	Skip & Letty Nault
May 10	<i>available</i>
May 17	<i>available</i>
May 24	<i>available</i>
May 31	<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.***

### **May**      Birthdays

5	Bev Wire
12	John Schaeffer
21	Mary Wicks
22	Bert Bishop

### Anniversaries

1	Jon Sprunger & Steve Berg
12	Lloyd & Margaret Boyer
13	John & Jill Schaeffer
21	Casey Hoy & Karen Skubik

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. There will be no scheduled rides after May 3rd. Rides will resume next Fall when classes restart.

May 3	Margo Curl
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North Congregational United Church of Christ, 2040 W. Henderson Road, Columbus, will become a festive Cabaret the second weekend of May. The church will present its seventh Cabaret, titled "From the Heart," at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 9, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 10.

Proceeds will benefit the BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality And Dignity) organization, of which the church is a member, and the food pantry at St. Paul United Church of Christ, part of South Side Community Ministries.

Featured artist at the Saturday performance will be Brian Michael Smith, a New York City and Columbus entertainer. Sunday's featured artists will be children who participate in the Columbus Music & Art Academy, which meets at North Church. Church members and friends will round out the performances.

Tickets may be purchased at the door. Admission is \$10, and \$8 for students and those 60 or over. The family/household maximum is \$30. Refreshments will be served during intermission. Free parking is available at the church. For more information, please contact North Church at (614) 451-1835. We can't wait to see you!

### ***A Look At the Year Ahead***

May 17, 2009	UU Fellowship Annual Meeting. Our annual business meeting starts after the service. We elect board members for the next year.
June 24-28, 2009	General Assembly. Salt Lake City, Utah.
July 12-18, 2009	Summer Institute 2009- Theme speaker: Thandeka.

## May 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9:00am Rental
3 Aluminum Can collection 8:00am Set up for Beltane 10:30am Beltane -Spirit Paths 12:00pm Ministerial Intern Committee meeting 12:00pm Finance Committee Meeting	4 1:00pm X Team 7:00pm Zen Meditation	5 7:00pm Board Meeting	6 7:00pm choir	7 7 pm: Adult RE	8 Annual report deadline 4:00pm RENTAL	9 10:00am Cake Decorating @EWH 2-4 pm Ladies Tea
10 Mothers Day 10:30am Spiritual Life of Children-Strawn 7:00pm Scrabble/Game Night	11 7:00pm Dr. Fielder--Health Lecture 7:00pm Zen Meditation	12 7:00pm RE committee meeting	13 Equality Ohio Lobby Day 7:00pm Youth Group 7:00pm choir	14 7 pm: Adult RE	15 7:00pm Drumming Circle <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">Elaine is in school from</div>	16 6:00pm Out to Dinner Night Chicago at May 15-17
17 People to People --Saltine Sunday 10:30am RE Sunday 12:30pm Annual meeting 7:00pm Book Group	18 1:00pm X Team 7:00pm Zen Meditation	19	20 5:00pm Bakers dozen at EWH 7:00pm choir 7:30pm SOS chalice circle	21 1:00pm Word Works Writers Group 7:00pm PFLAG 7 pm: Adult RE	22	23
24 10:30am Question Box Sermon-- Lerner	25 6:30pm Women Wisdom Circle 7:00pm Zen Meditation	26 7:00pm OME	27 7:00pm choir	28 4:00pm Past Life Chalice circle 7 pm: Adult RE	29	30 7:00pm Circle Suppers
31 10:00am Youth Group 10:30am Flower Communion--Strawn & Lerner 1:00pm Circle Lunches						

**Regular office hours**

~Rev. Dr. 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  
 ~Lorie Lerner, ministerial intern: Fridays by appointment

## 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  
After May 17th: she will become: Rev. Dr. Elaine Strawn
- ~Marge Thomas, Dir. Religious Exploration: Tues. and Thurs. from 11:30 to 4 pm
- ~Anne Wilson, office administrator: Mon, Wed, Fri: 10am -2 pm
- ~Lorie Lerner, ministerial intern Friday afternoons by appointment

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