



The Newsletter for

January 2010

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

of Wayne County

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

UUF News

January Service Schedule

Services are at 9 & 10:45 am.

Coffee 'hour' is between the services—about 10:00 to 10:45 am.

January 3: Janus [Marti Livingstone]

As we welcome the New Year, we will focus on Janus, the Roman god who was able to look both backward and forward at the same time.

January 10: Esperanza Threads [Sister Mary Eileen]

Sometimes help comes in the form of empowerment of our own skills. Sister Mary Eileen does this with the women of Cleveland.

January 17: Martin Luther King Day [Lorie Lerner]

Annually we honor the man at the center of so much social reflection and change: racism to equality, war to peace, poverty to sharing.

January 24: New Beginnings [Deb Chaney]

Ms. Chaney is the newly consecrated Commissioned Lay Leader at the UU Congregation of Greater Canton. As a social worker and as a woman on the spiritual quest for meaning, she shares her insights with us.

January 31: The Art of the Covenant [Lorie Lerner]

What does having a covenant mean to Unitarian Universalists?

Welcome Back Lorie Lerner!

We are delighted that our former ministerial intern, Lorie Lerner, will be back to serve as minister during Elaine's sabbatical in January. Please include her in your thoughts as well as your plans.

A word about Snow Cancellations

You can find out if an event has been cancelled by listening to WQKT-104.5 fm or on Channel 3 or by going to our website & clicking on the iAlert button.

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From the Board

As we approach year end, I find myself reflecting on the accomplishments and failures of 2009. In reflecting on the fellowship accomplishments, I find a unity of purpose. Though not without its difficulties and sacrifice, the completion of the safe and expanded parking lot was an accomplishment. While there is no glamour in concrete and artificial illumination, the project is an achievement because we have provided a safe method for our own members, as well as the community at large, to join us. We no longer require our members or guests to park on streets, at the high school, or at the Freedlander's Park. The generosity of the fellowship as a whole, and of the members individually, are directly responsible for the completion of the expanded parking.

Another achievement is the ongoing fiscal management of the fellowship. Did you know that it costs the Fellowship approximately \$15,000.00 per month to open its doors? Beyond the usual utilities, mortgage, insurances, salaries, etc., there are also the unexpected occurrences, such as when lightning struck our rooftop HVAC unit. The Facilities Committee, the X-Team, and the Finance Committee do an outstanding job of fiscal management. Our Treasurer, Dave Drum, and Assistant Treasurer, Carol Noel, keep an eye on monies, loan terms, and other opportunities. The budget is in the office and is available for review. As part of the fiscal management and through the generosity of an anonymous donor, we were able to officially hire our minister full time. We were able to contract with her for full time employment and to pay her for the job that she has been doing for several years. Fair compensation has been a primary goal and commitment of the Board, and we are making strides to successfully achieve that commitment.

The Fellowship is undergoing several transition stages, one being the transition to two services, and with that came a change to the coffee hour. Both the transition to two services and the coffee hour have been matters where there has not been agreement, but we are committed to work to find what best suits the Fellowship. Going to two services is a trial situation only and it will be reviewed in several months. We may find that two services work well or we may find that we wish to go back to one large service. This is a time of exploration and discovery for the Worship Committee. The coffee hour has been a source of difficulty and, Michelle Shaw has offered to chair a coffee hour committee to further explore options and try new things. Again, nothing final has been determined and this too is in an exploration stage and is tied in to the experiment of two services. The Worship Committee and R.E. are responding to the added responsibilities that come from having two services.

Currently the Stewardship Committee is actively seeking options for a financial campaign through the UUA, and is regularly updating and advising the Board as to its work. The Board was not so successful in drafting a selling policy. The Board promptly rescinded its' action and is working toward a policy that will balance the need for Sacred space and quiet time versus supporting our youth. During this process, the Board will be seeking more input from committees and members. I hope that you will support the Board through this process.

Let us support each other and work towards finding unity of purpose.

Social Action in Action

TIME TO VOTE! Each year at the UUA General Assembly the delegates vote for an issue which will be studied over a two year period. Five issues receiving the most votes from the member congregations are presented to the delegates. It's time for the UUFWC to vote on the issues to be presented in 2010. In January more information about these issues along with paper ballots will be distributed. These will also be available on the website. ***See page 4 for the list of issues.*** You can vote for 5 out of 6.

TIME TO COMMENT! The UUA Draft Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking is available for your comments. The question is, is the statement worded well enough? This is a lengthy document. If you are interested in reviewing it to comment on it, copies will be available on the Social Action table in the rear of the meeting room during January. There will also be instructions for submitting your comments. Contact Rev. Dr Elaine Strawn or Betty Schuler if you have any questions.

The Minister's Column

I am dedicating the month of January to a sabbatical: a time to reground myself in life and UU tradition. Anticipation has me thinking some long thoughts. For instance, I am wondering whether the word "communitarian" describes our current stance more accurately than either "Unitarian" [since this indicates at least one God] or "Universalism" [since hell is not something we contemplate often].

"Communitarianism" reminds us to think of "ours" and "we" rather than of "mine" or "I." This idea arose as Laura and Phil Grimm told of their "steps to the Meeting House" on December 6. They talked of their journey to our congregation, [Laura's Unitarian and Phil's Presbyterian backgrounds, their shared philosophy and love of the environment, the ways the Mennonite community has inspired them]. They ended with the following thoughts:

Why are we here today? We:

- *want a place that provides a sense of community outside of family – we want to belong to a church*
- *want a place to support others and to be supported if needed*
- *and a place where our social action and political views can be expressed without reservation, a place where we can comfortably sing all of the words of the hymn*
- *want a place where all people regardless of race, creed, and sexual orientation are fully accepted and valued*
- *want a place that recognized the dynamics of faith / spirituality*
- *want a place to learn, grow, and be challenged*
- *want a place that allows us to experience the ebb and flow of our spirituality fully and without question*
- *want a place that we can be true to ourselves – a place where we do not need to compromise or cover our beliefs to fit in – a place where we do not feel hypocritical*

We are at a time in our lives where we want to not just to ride – but help to drive the bus.

Helping to driving the "bus" (through participation on the board, worship associate, chalice circles, RE, Time for All Children, financial commitment) allows us to help determine the direction of the "bus."

As I leave, I am reminded that, well, inspiration happens in community!

Director of Religious Exploration Column

The youth have been busy, busy, busy! At the end of November the Youth Group held a lock-in, with 14 kids in attendance. Super! Skylar Breiner attended an Interfaith Peace Symposium for two days at Meadville-Lombard Theological Seminary in Chicago. He was the only youth there, but he still enjoyed it and has lots to share. A gift exchange between children and adults was held on December 13th. This was organized by the Youth Group. Advisors Peg Redinbaugh and Ashley Baxstrom are obviously doing something right.

On December 20th a Nativity Pageant entitled "Would You Like to Hold the Baby?" was presented by the RE department and the choir. Nancy Hurt, with the assistance of Dae Evans, directed the players, while Gregg Sheffield conducted the choir. Our thanks to the many people involved-- both on and off stage. Bless all of you!!!

And so begins another calendar year..... RE staff (about 45 volunteers) will meet on Saturday, January 9th from 9:00 to 12:00 for our semi-annual teacher support and planning session. The featured speaker is artist Dae Evans, who will get us fired up on how to do art with kids.

A sexuality class for 5th and 6th graders will begin early in January, to be led by Mady Noble and Dan Stavnezer. Parents of these children will be receiving information soon.

Fundraising News— We need your help!

Fundraising Committee Planning Meeting: January 10, 12:00 pm

The FUNdraising committee needs some help. We are a mighty committee with a big job and only 3 members. If you would like to join us, we promise that we will not work you too hard and that you will have fun...this is not your regular old committee of soliciting for money! Please join us at our 2010 planning meeting January 10 at 12:00 pm. A light lunch will be served.

Madrigal

The Madrigal was a great success last year, thanks to your efforts and energy! We netted a little over \$1,900. Many, many thanks for your support and help!

Holiday Cookiethon

We sold all of the cookies baked and brought for the Cookiethon! BIG thanks to the hard work and laughter that went into this project. Special thanks go to Michelle Shaw and Anne Wilson for their exceptionally HARD work to make this successful! This year, we will expand it a little and see if in 2011, we can launch it to the public.

Social Action in Action-continued

Each year at the UUA General Assembly the delegates vote for an issue which will be studied over a two year period. The five issues receiving the most votes from the member congregations are presented to the delegates.

Look for your opportunity to vote for five out of the following six issues:

- 1. Ending Slavery:** More people are enslaved today than at any time in history, about 27 million world-wide.
- 2. Energy, Peace, and Justice:** Nations fight with each other to control natural resources. Energy use is essential for human survival.
- 3. Immigration as a Moral Issue:** Migration of people-driven by economic, social, political and environmental factors is taking place around the world.
- 4. National Economic Reform: A Moral Imperative:** The economic crisis and current political responses will continue to destabilize our communities and erode our democracy.
- 5. Nuclear Disarmament:** The increasing dangers of proliferation and nuclear terrorism have been largely neglected by elected officials and by the media.
- 6. Revitalizing American Democracy:** Corporations have shifted our nation's policies to favor profit making and privatization of public resources. We the people must work to rebalance policies to support the well-being of all.

Membership Committee

Meet N Greet Time Again!

Keep your New Year's resolution to plan ahead. Meet and Greet will be Saturday evening February 27, 2010 at the Fellowship. Mark it now on your calendars . It will be a fun time for meeting, eating & speaking.

For those of you who have not had the pleasure of attending one in the past, dinner is provided and then the large group breaks into smaller groups of four. Each small group then discussed any of the topics located at the table. (We tell you what to discuss & with whom so you can sit back and chill.) OR each group may select a different topic. The chosen subject is thought about and discussed a for about twenty minutes.

Then groups change and everyone meets another set of people with another topic. It seems as though there is never a loss for words! You then have the option of staying and relaxing, talking and getting to know more people or leaving with all those fun times dancing around in your head.

So for a good time, do not call but come to the fellowship on February 27th. Additional details will be out soon. See you there!

Free Stewardship Orientation with Mark Ewert

Mary Wicks and Tom Gross are confident that the UUFWC Annual Budget Campaign will be a big success. With that goal in mind, we have decided to conduct an every member canvass this year. We will have our UUA consultant, who did an assessment of our Fellowship in September, assist us with our campaign.

On Saturday & Sunday, February **13 & 14***, Mark Ewert will lead a how-to orientation for UU Fellowship of Wayne Co members. There will be three possible times to attend this workshop: on Saturday from 9:00 (sharp!) to noon, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm and after service on Sunday from 12:30 to 3:30. Mark is a stewardship consultant from the Unitarian Universalist Association and a member of All Souls Church in Washington, DC. As this year's Annual Budget Drive gets going, Mark will orient us on how to become "visiting stewards" and gather the commitment forms for the UUFWC 2011 year. "Volunteer visiting stewards, who have been through this orientation, report that they enjoy the experience of meeting and talking with their fellow congregants about their congregation, and how it makes a difference in their lives," says Mark. "Other congregations find that a majority of visiting stewards volunteer year after year." Whether you are new or a long-time congregant at UUFWC, you will gain something at this valuable orientation. The workshop, held at the church, will start with light refreshments and childcare is available. Space is limited, so sign up early by contacting Tom Gross or Mary Wicks. ***these are the new corrected dates. asw 1/6/10**

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee is currently considering candidates for the Board and the nominating committee. Please submit suggestions to Jeff Gochnauer by Jan 10th

Committee council Meeting

Tuesday January 19 at 7 pm
All Board members, and Committee chairs meet 3 times a year.
Included on the agenda:
Developing a vision for the future,
Leadership Development opportunities
and our 5 year plans.

FROM THE VAULT, by Dave Drumm, Sr., UUFWC Treasurer

Today's Word: **LEGACY** /légasee/ *n.* (*pl. -ies*) 1. a gift left in a will.
2. something handed down by a predecessor/ (legatia-legare, bequeath)
see BEQUEST.

One year ends, another begins. The wheel of history turns and a new opportunity presents itself. This writer has never been a big fan of New Year's resolutions (we prefer specific plans over wishful expectations). But, planning, especially long-range planning, is important, especially for those who want to live an intentional life which includes helping to preserve the long-lived, fiscal definition of our growing Fellowship.

Our congregation is indeed growing! That is not news, however, it is always worth shouting about: The UUFWC has fulfilled the spiritual needs of more folks than the original nineteen charter members ever envisioned in 1972.

Through the thoughtfulness of some members or friends, we have been able to establish two separate and thus far, modest, funds: an endowment fund and a memorial fund; both invested and managed by the UUA combined investment fund in Boston.

To ensure the longevity of our Fellowship for future generations, we need to continue to build the endowment fund. There are several excellent ways for the Fellowship to participate. I'm available to explain these options on a personal basis or, you can go to the UUA website. I'll be back next month with another "exciting" column

What's Happening

2010 Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

Monday January 18 7 PM
Second Baptist Church
245 South Grant Street

Dinner at 5:30 PM (\$7 per person)
RSVP for meal (330-262-3373)

The January Out for Dinner Night

will be held at

Broken Rocks Café & Bakery
East Liberty Street, Wooster

6:00 PM, Saturday, January 23rd

Its mid-winter and we are all eager to restart our monthly repasts. We have reserved the backroom of Broken Rocks Café and Bakery in Wooster, which is always one of our most popular gatherings. Go all the way down the hallway to the back of the café. Broken Rocks makes everything in-house and many items are made using fresh, local ingredients whenever possible, plus their prices are reasonable. Reserve your place by signing the sheet on the Concessions Table in the Entrance Hall by January 17th. We will meet at the restaurant at 6:00 PM. Call Charles Gaines (330.465.0899) if you need a ride or if you have a change of plans.

Home Owners Clinic:

How to Save Energy and Money

Thurs. Jan. 28, 7 p.m.

at Prentke Romich Co., 1022 Heyl Rd., Wooster.

See flyer on Social Action Bulletin board
for details .

Everyone is welcome.

Sustainable Energy Network

www.wcsen.org

A Note from
Rashmi Kiran Ekka:



Dear all of you Fabulous UUs, How are you? I hope that some of you remember me from the two talks I gave at the Fellowship - the first one was on the occasion of Martin Luther King Day in the January of 2008 and the second time was when I talked about microfinance. It is always a pleasure to be in the company of UUs and at both occasions I was overwhelmed with your empathy, understanding and the urge to do something. Over the past two years, as my path has crossed yours again, it has touched my heart to see that you have remembered me and the plight of my people - the Adivasis, who are the indigenous people of India and continued to express your willingness to support this cause.

Encouraged by your support I started a non-profit this year called the Adivasi Development Network. Our mission is to empower the Indigenous People of India. The Adivasis are the poorest and the most socio-economically exploited people in India. When I was at the fellowship, after my talk on the plight of the indigenous people, one of you came up to me and told me that my story was important and Americans needed to know it and that I should be sharing my story on the Bill Moyers show!

With such encouraging words we set to work this year, raising awareness. In the month of December, we have launched our website, [www.adivasinetwork.org], got some great press and have begun fundraising. ! Any support you could give would increase much needed access to education, health services and employment in India.

With gratitude,
Rashmi Kiran Ekka
Executive Director
Adivasi Development Network

***Around the District
and Association***

Winter Institute

Registration for Winter Institute 2010 is now open. To learn more about WI and to register visit the OMD website at [http://](http://www.ohiomeadville.org/conference/omdwi.html)

www.ohiomeadville.org/conference/omdwi.html

***National
Standing on the Side of Love Day***

Sunday, February 14th, 2010, will be "National Standing on the Side of Love Day." Join us and celebrate a Valentine's Day re-imagined. Congregations across the nation will participate in a day of worship, faith outreach, and partnership with interfaith partners and/or community organizations. National Standing on the Side of Love Day allows each congregation to take action on issues that matter locally, and to pursue strategies that are effective and meaningful to them. Events will be tied together by central messaging, materials and support. We fully recognize and affirm that many congregations already have wonderful plans for Valentine's Day and that you are unable to change course. But for those of you who would like to take part or to modify existing plans you can find more information at

<http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org>

District Assembly

materials will be available between January 1-15, 2010 on the OMD website. This year's theme is Growing Branches, Strong Roots: Transformational Living. Keynote speaker is Rev. Meg Riley, Director of Advocacy and Witness for the UUA. The southern cluster will be hosting us at Ohio University Eastern Campus in St. Clairsville, OH. We promise great Appalachian music, inspiring worship, and informative and energizing workshops. Details will be posted at www.ohiomeadville.org/annmtg

Every Month

BAKERS DOZEN

COOKS AT EVERY WOMEN'S HOUSE

Anyone is welcome to join us. Contact Cathy Miller (330-262-7108) or Sue Gross (330-264-9703)

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Third Sunday, during the school year, at 7 pm

Jan 17: The Time Travelers Wife

by Audrey Niffenegger

DRUMMING CIRCLE

Usually 3rd Friday nights at the fellowship.

Contact Lisa Ryan [330-496-2067]

to be sure that it is meeting.

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

PARLONS FRANCAIS

First Sunday at 7 pm

At the home of Margo Curl

[1468 Rumbaugh Circle, Wooster. 330.263.1063]

Bring something short (in French)

to read and discuss.

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 [330-262-4445]

SPIRIT PATHS

Next meeting: Saturday,

Questions: Ann Pilarczyk [emp20u@yahoo.com] or

Tammy Paul [tammy.lovescats.paul@gmail.com]

WORD WORKS WRITERS GROUP

Third Thursday from 1-3 pm

Other Important Information

Rides for College Students

Ride service resumes in January.

Pick up spot: Health Center
Time: 10:20 am (for the 2nd service)



January Birthdays

7	Corina Klies
8	Jon Sprunger
11	Casey Hoy
14	Michael Jaeb
16	Lois Grant
21	Kay Bowen
25	Gail Carter
27	Jim Wheelis

I'm happy to add your important events to the list—please contact the office. [fellowship@uufwc.org]

Library News

Three new additions to the Fellowship library:

THE DARK SIDE OF RELIGION: RELIGION'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE GLOBAL CRISES By Dr. Charles Kammer (James F. Lincoln Professor of Religion at the College of Wooster) CD Dark
This is a recording of a presentation given by Dr. Kammer on September 16, 2009, at the College of Wooster for the Fall Academy of Religion's lecture series *Religion in a Perilous World: A Resource for Change?*

(As described in the UUA Bookstore catalog):

A LITTLE BOOK ON FORGIVENESS By Marilyn Sewell 179.9 Sewe 2008
Discusses principles to guide the reader through the process of forgiveness. Explores forgiveness as a catalyst for spiritual growth.

THE WHOLE WORLD KIN: DARWIN AND THE SPIRIT OF LIBERAL RELIGION
Edited by Frederic Muir 230.91 Muir 2010
Nine essays from prominent liberal religious thinkers on Darwin's contributions to theology, spirituality and ethics. Honors the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of *On the Origin of Species*.

A Look At the Year Ahead

Feb 12-15, 2010	Winter Institute at Salt Fork State Park. relaxing and "schedule and stress free" weekend is an intimate gathering for UUs of all ages. Register before January 22 to avoid a late fee.
March 26-27, 2010	Ohio Meadville District Assembly at Ohio U. Eastern Campus, St. Clairsville, OH
June 23-27, 2010	Plan now for General Assembly! Next summer in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
July 11–17, 2010	Summer Institute. Theme Speaker: Odds Bodkin http://www.oddsbodkin.com/

January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9 am & 10:45 am: Janus-Livingstone 7 pm - Parlons Francais	4 1 pm - X Team 7 pm - Zen Meditation	5 7 pm - UU Board	6 6 pm - Music comm meeting 6:30 pm - SOS chalice Circle 7 pm - Choir Rehearsal	7	1 8	2 9 9 am -12 : RE Mid Year Planning meeting
10 9 am & 10:45 am: Esperanza Threads-Sister Mary Eileen 9 am - Finance Comm meeting 12 pm - Fundraising Comm meeting 7 pm - Scrabble Night 7 pm - Social Action	11 7 pm - Zen Meditation	12 7 pm - RE committee	13 7 pm - Choir Rehearsal 7 pm - Youth Group	14	15	16
17 People to People 9 am & 10:45 am: Martin Luther King Day-Lerner 7 pm - Book Group	18 1 pm - X Team 7 pm - Zen Meditation	19 7 pm - Committee Council 7 pm - Heart-to-Heart Chalice Circle	20 7 pm - Choir Rehearsal	21 1 pm - Words Work Writers Group 7 pm - PFLAG	22	23
24 9 am & 10:45 am: New Beginnings-Chaney 12 pm - Ethical Eating Potluck	25 7 pm - Zen Meditation	26 7 pm - OME	27 7 pm - Choir Rehearsal	28	29	30 6 pm - Spirit Paths
31 9 am & 10:45 am: Lerner	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p><u>Regular office hours</u></p> </div>					

Lorie Lerner:
 Marge Thomas, Director of RE: Tues & Thurs: 11:30 am -4pm
 Anne Wilson, Office Administrator: Mon, Wed, Fri: 10 am-2 pm
 Rev. Dr. Elaine Strawn: is on Sabbatical

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
Starting January 6, we will meet at 9 am and at 10:45 am

Minister: Rev. V. Elaine Strawn, email: minister –at- uufwc.org

Director of Religious Exploration: Marge Thomas, e-mail: dre –at- uufwc.org

Board of Directors: Pat Rodgers, president, Karen Skubik vice president, Georgia Jaeb, secretary, Lois Grant, Bill Alkire, Tim Breiner, Phil Grimm, past president

Office Administrator & Newsletter Editor: Anne Wilson, email: fellowship –at- 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 –at- yahoogroups.com One email reaches nearly everyone! There is a delay while the messages are moderated. To join the group, email the office: fellowship –at- uufwc.org.

Office Hours: Rev. Dr. Elaine Strawn: Monday 1-5 pm, Wednesday 6-9 pm, Thursday 10 am-2 pm
Anne Wilson, Office Administrator: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10 am-2 pm
Marge Thomas, Director of Religious Exploration: Tues & Thurs: 11:30 am -4pm

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