



UUFWC NEWSLETTER: DECEMBER 2022

Upcoming Services

Our weekly Worship Services are in person on Sunday mornings at 10am or watch the service on YouTube Live. [LINK to our YouTube channel](#) A recording is made available through the Google Groups email, later that day.

12/4 – Fresh Eyes (Rev. Walter Clark)

The bright colors of fall have faded and the stark greys of winter surround us. In these dreary days it can be hard to find beauty and connect to our sense of wonder and awe. How can we look at the world around us with fresh eyes and connect with the hidden beauty around us? The Folk Orchestra plays.

12/11 – The Latke Who Couldn't Stop Screaming

In this interactive service we will explore the traditions of Hanukkah through story, song, and meditation. Join us for a reflection from Adam Keating and the Lemony Snicket story of *The Latke Who Couldn't Stop Screaming*. A potato pancake trying to be heard among the chaos of Christmas.

Thursday, 12/15 – Blue Christmas

This meditative Thursday service is for those who struggle with the holiday season. This time of year can be especially hard for those of us who have recently lost loved ones or have had struggles with family. Sit with us as we take a breath amid the noise and haste.

12/18 - Winter Solstice

December 21st marks the winter solstice. Join music director Sharon Delgadillo and Rev. Walter Clark as we honor the shortest day of the year. Enjoy the sounds of the Choir & Folk Orchestra.

Saturday, 12/24 – Carols and Stories

Join us at 7pm for a traditional Christmas service as we share stories and songs from the season.

12/25 – No Service - Merry Christmas!



We are welcoming in the Holiday Spirit on December 4th from 2:00-4:00. We will be decking the Hall and there will be caroling, refreshments, and cookie decorating! Take a moment from your busy day to breathe in the Season at this family friendly event sponsored by the Music Committee.

Minister's Meditations *Rev. Walter Clark*

Christmas is the only holiday that has its own soundtrack. You can make a case that Halloween has its own songs, but nothing compares to the catalogue of Christmas music. One of the things that I love about Christmas music is that every generation and genre gets in on it. You have the golden age classics with Bing Crosby and Mel Tormé. Gene Autry introduced us to Rudolph in the early 1950's and Brenda Lee rocked us around the Christmas Tree in the late 50's. The Gen X'ers gave us Band Aid and *Do They Know It's Christmas* and Millennials gave us Mariah Carey and the incessant *All I Want For Christmas*. From pop to punk to country to rap everyone puts their own mark on Christmas music, including Unitarian Universalists.

I remember during my very first UU Christmas Eve Service, we sang Joy to the World. This has got to be one of my favorite Christmas Hymns. I remember going to the 11pm Christmas Eve service at my old Lutheran church and that being the final song. They had a trumpeter in the choir loft who would join in on the last verse and the organist pulled out all the stops (literally) and the whole sanctuary shook. So when I heard it in the UU service I joyfully took a deep breath and belted out the first line, "Joy to the world, the Lord has come!" Only to realize that I was the only one who sang those words. In the grey hymnal it states, "Joy to the world, the Word is come." (yes, Word is capitalized).

UU's have a reputation for changing the lyrics to old hymns, it's nothing new. In a way it makes sense that we would do it for Christmas Carols as well. Did you know that UU's rewrote *Silent Night* in order to be more secular?

*Silent Night! Peaceful night!
All things sleep, shepherds keep
Watch on Bethlehem's silent hill
Unseen while all is still
Angels watch above
Angels watch above*

I can't imagine singing that by candlelight on Christmas Eve. It just feels wrong. Yet I understand the impulse to remove certain elements. As a faith we believe in reason and the scientific process which makes it hard to sing about angels, virgin births and infant kings. But many of us still balk at these words changes and insist on singing the carols as we knew them. Why?

I firmly believe that this is the time of year where we embrace magical thinking. It is the season of "peace on earth, goodwill towards humanity." It is when we search for the best in others, even though they may have let us down before (and this is the time of year we are more likely to find it in them!) Hope is when we believe in something positive, even though we have no logical reason to do so. This is the season of hope. It's a time where we can embrace the idea behind an infant savior without needing to believe in the idea of needing to be saved.

I have no problem with us UU's leaving our mark on holiday music, but I don't think we need to erase what has come before. You'll notice that the current version of *Silent Night* in the hymnal is the one we are all familiar with. Don't be surprised if we sing the old version of *Joy to the World* either. It's all about embracing the hope and wonder of the season.

'Share the Plate'

Each month we will choose an agency that will receive half of the donations that are not designated for another purpose. **In December, we will share the plate with we will share the plate with Orrville Friendship Meals.**

Friendship Meals, Inc. offers "A compassionate response to community hunger". They are a non-profit organization, partially funded by the Orrville Area

United Way, that serves a free dinner on the 2nd,3rd,4th & 5th Thursdays at the Christ United Church of Christ located at 301 N. Main St. in Orrville.



Learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/friendshipmealsoforrrville/>

How do you share the plate?

- If you write checks, please communicate your intention on the memo line, eg: 'share the plate'.
 - If you use Paypal, in the optional section, choose 'share the plate'.
 - If you use Paypal Giving Fund, you will have to email Joanna to designate your contribution. [fellowship@uufwc.org].
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Family Ministry

From Director of Religious Education, Jenni Papp

**We are excited to have the return of
Our Whole Lives for the 2022-23 year.**

Offerings for 1st & 2nd grade and 5th & 6th grade will begin in early January. Click [HERE](#) to register your children for these upcoming elementary sessions.

Are you new to OWL?

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89780237064>

OR

Sunday, December 11th at 8:45am in Room 1 at UFWC (childcare in PJ Sunday at the same time)



PJ Sunday - Holiday Version

Join us on December 11th at 8:45 a.m.

What if on Sunday morning you
-- didn't have to feed the kids,
-- get them dressed, or
-- make your own coffee?



That can happen on PJ Sunday!

But, it's even better!

Read on, it works like this...

1. Everyone hops in the car, PJs or no PJs, and heads to the Fellowship.
2. Trusted adults from UUFWC will feed your kids.
3. You join the other parents and caregivers for your coffee or tea and a brief facilitated check in together.
4. Now we are fed, caffeinated, connected, and centered in our shared faith. Let the pageant worship service begin!!!

We hope you will give it a try and join us in this monthly gathering!

January 15th & February 12th, more monthly dates TBA

Sunday Morning Religious Exploration

Each month we explore a specific theme both during worship services and in our religious exploration. We are inspired by many sources and find ways to explore the theme in developmentally appropriate ways. Currently, we have four groups that gather on Sunday morning during worship:

Nursery for infants through pre-school
Earth Spirits for kindergarten through 3rd grade
Extra Extreme Explorers (Triple E's) for 4th through 6th grade
Youth Community for 7th through 12th grade

Our Theme for December is: Wonder



December 4 -- Let's Get Ready for the Winter Holiday Pageant

We have a couple more props to make. Some songs to learn. And more cool traditions of Hanukkah! Adult participants are encouraged to join us!

December 11 -- Winter Holiday Worship for All Ages

This interactive, exploratory worship will look at the traditions of the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah in a meaningful story, joyous songs, and thoughtful meditation. Children can participate at whatever level they are

comfortable and there are no rehearsals required.

December 18 -- Celebration of Winter Holidays

Last RE Classes for 2022 as we continue to explore the Solstice and other Winter Holidays.

**Sunday Morning RE Classes will be on Winter Break until January 15th.
Enjoy the Holidays!**

More details, events, and supplemental resources to use together at home are available in the RE Newsletter. [Click here to subscribe.](#)

Children are always welcome in our worship services, and we have a wiggle friendly place for them in the sanctuary if they would prefer that. The nursery is always available for caregivers to use and the service audio can be heard in there.

Families are Getting Connected!

If you would like to join the new private Facebook group for Family Ministry at the UUFWC you can click here to [request to join](#).



Contact Jenni at DRE@UUFWC.org or Jess at YMC@UUFWC.org with questions.



From Sharon Delgadillo, Music Director

The mUUSIC Committee would like to extend a warm welcome to Cheryl Kelly Meade. We are excited to have her insight and creativity join us!

There is something about making music in a group. Studies have shown that groups that sing and make music together begin to breathe together. For that one hour each week, we are not alone, we are creating beauty, breathing as one, making healing sound and loving and supporting each other. Come be a part of us. Let the music touch your soul.

It is not too late to join the Choir! We rehearse Wednesdays at 7-8pm. If you join now, you will be in time to sing in our Winter Solstice program! We would love to have your voice join with ours.

The Folk Orchestra is looking for a bass player, a cello or contrabass. If you play one of these instruments and have considered joining us, we are waiting for you! We rehearse Wednesdays at 8:15-9:00pm. It doesn't matter your playing level, come and make a joyful noise with us! I can arrange the music to meet your level.

We need Sunday morning Song Leaders! You don't have to be perfect and you can sing in a small group, but we do need folks that are willing to lead us in our morning worship songs. Concerned you won't know the song? Sharon will work with you.

Sharing musical gifts is one of the most sacred. Special Music on Sunday mornings lifts us up. If you are willing to provide some inspiration, contact Sharon Delgadillo.

For more info, contact Sharon Delgadillo, Music Director at music.director@uufwc.org



GREETERS/USHERS

The new greeter schedule for December, January, and February is ready and will be in the lobby. Please check your calendars and sign up for the Sundays you can greet. Welcoming visitors, members, and friends is such an important part of our services. **THANK YOU FOR THE GENUINE WARMTH ALL OF YOU SHARE!**

We always welcome our congregants to become part of the greeter crew on Sunday mornings. Please contact Cherrill Wertz at tcwertz@frontier.com if interested.

Membership (and Fun Stuff) News

Committee: Martin Lubell (chair), Cherrill Wertz (vice-chair), Jay Klemme, Laura Grimm, Leah Humphrey, Laura Moore, Karen Skubik (Membership Coordinator)



Our return to BOWLING on November 13th was a blast! Thanks to the approximately 60 people who attended!

Thanksgiving Dinner at the Fellowship was back too after a three-year hiatus!! About a dozen folks had a delightful time sharing both food, stories and joy.

Coffee!!

Why is everyone always so happy on Sunday mornings chatting with a cup of coffee (or other beverage) in their hands? We can only guess at the answer, but we do know that we want to keep this up, so we need YOU! Please consider putting your name down on the coffee-making signup sheet in the lobby. Contact Vicki or Mike for more info. We can show you what needs to be done.

Library News Submitted by Kay Bowen, UUFWC Librarian

The two children's titles described below are new to our UUFWC library:

THE MORE YOU GIVE By Marcy Campbell

Written by the UUFWC's own Marcy Campbell, this picture book has two reinforcing storylines – one following the growth of an acorn from tree to forest and one the progression of love from generation to generation, from individual to community. Each require love and patience.

Created with digital painting tools, the illustrations (by Francesca Sanna) are vibrant in green, purple, and oranges. And the placement of the pictures is patterned to match the repetition of word patterns. For example, a green double-page spread marks each transition from one generation to the next, with each green spread ending with the transition words "And they were happy."

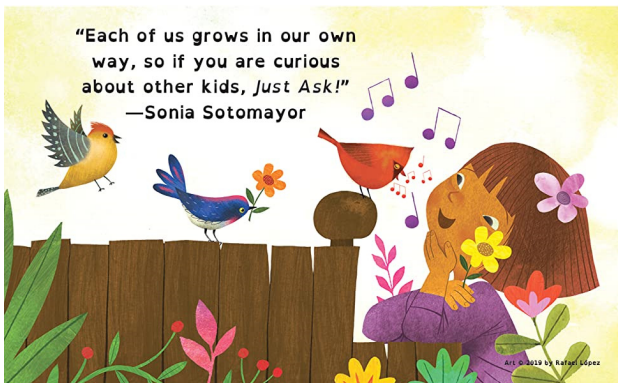


A beautiful book – with text and illustrations reinforcing one another to create a whole bigger than the sum of its parts.

JUST ASK!: BE DIFFERENT, BE BRAVE, BE YOU By Sonia Sotomayor

"Sonia and her friends are planting a garden, and each one contributes in his or her own way. Rafael has asthma and sometimes has to stay calm so he can breathe better, which gives him time to paint beautiful rocks for the garden. Anthony uses a wheelchair to get around and can move super fast, directing the group. Anh has a stutter and prefers to listen, so she knows just how to plant each flower. All of the friends are different, but they all have one thing

in common: They like to ask questions and learn about each other.



In this warm and inclusive story by US Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, inspired by her own childhood diagnosis of diabetes, readers join along as differently abled kids use their strengths to work together and learn about each other. With vibrant, engaging art by award-winning illustrator Rafael Lopez, this book shows us that differences

are wonderful – and that all you have to do when you don't understand something is JUST ASK!"

Quote is from the book's inside front flap

Social Action in Action

Submitted by Betty Schuler, of the Social Action Committee

WOOSTER'S ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET IS BACK!

UUFWC is participating in the **Alternative Gift Market** which will be held **Sunday, December 4th from 11:30-2:00 at Trinity United Church of Christ**, 150 E. North St., Wooster. Browse displays representing humanitarian relief agencies around the world and purchase \$5.00 "shares" to give as gifts to friends and loved ones. With each share purchased, you will receive a card and a description of the project to give as your alternative gift. Also enjoy a **delicious lunch** with proceeds benefitting the area severe weather shelter program. With projects that seek to alleviate hunger, empower women, heal the environment, and more - there's something for everyone on your list. **PLUS**, World Market from Kidron and others will be selling items that help others. **Questions?** Contact Mary Wicks at wicksfam@sssnet.com or 330.317.4681. Interfaith participants are First Presbyterian Church, St. James Episcopal Church, Trinity United Church of Christ, UU Fellowship, Wooster Mennonite Church.



Alternative Gift International is the nonprofit parent group of markets all over the world. In more than 30 seasons of giving, Alternative Gifts International has raised more than \$29 million for people in crisis and for environmental needs. Market events are sponsored by churches, schools or community groups. In Wooster the sponsors are local churches, including the UUFWC. Shoppers will find projects that cover a wide variety of ages and interests. Plan to attend.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE SEVERE WEATHER

SHELTER. The severe weather shelter, housed at the Wooster Salvation Army, will be opening up to anyone who needs a warm, safe space when the temperature "feels like" it has dropped below 25 degrees. Individuals or couples who are interested in volunteering are needed. Covid-19 protocols will be carried out to keep everyone healthy and safe. The Salvation Army will have a staff member in the building at all times if needed. All volunteers will need to have a completed background check in order to start at the shelter. Training is also required. The responsibilities of a volunteer are: helping as a "Host"; meal distribution; supervising shelter guests and assisting shelter guests' needs. Volunteers are also needed to assist during the days with laundry. To learn about training, contact Lt. Kaitlyn Haddix, 330-264-

4704, Kaitlyn.Haddix@USE.Salvationarmy.org or Wyn Jones, 515-710-5731, Win.E.Jones@gmail.com.

Citizen's Climate Lobby Wooster Chapter

Submitted by Betty Schuler for All Things Green

One of the sponsors of the two recent Power A Clean Future Ohio (PFCO) presentations was the Wooster Chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL). This is a non-partisan organization with members throughout the United States, Canada and other countries which advocates for effective climate legislation. Local chapters lobby their elected representatives and work through local outreach and media. Their goal is to cut greenhouse gas emissions and promote a transition to a renewable energy economy through a market-based approach: a revenue-neutral "carbon fee and dividend" approach to pricing carbon pollution from fossil fuels, and simultaneously ending subsidies to fossil fuel companies. In the United States, using a market-based approach by putting a price on carbon is gaining support from both Republicans and Democrats. CCL believes that a revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend is a bipartisan solution that would effectively address carbon emissions without relying on a complex regulatory approach.

CCL proposes national legislation that would reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by placing a fee on carbon dioxide (CO₂) or equivalent gases. The fee would be levied against all fossil fuels at their point of entry into the economy. The revenues that would be collected would be 100% returned as a monthly or annual payment to every American household. This would protect low and middle class Americans from the rising consumer costs associated with the carbon fee. This is known as a carbon fee and dividend (CF&D).

CCL's proposal would start the fee at \$15 per ton of CO₂ and rise \$10 per ton each year. The fee would continue to rise until total U.S. CO₂ equivalent emissions have been reduced to 10% of U.S. CO₂ equivalent emissions in 1990. To protect U.S. businesses from competition from other countries that do not have carbon pricing mechanisms, a border adjustment would be enacted. Goods coming from countries without a carbon price would be subjected to a fee at the border. In addition, all existing subsidies of fossil fuels, including tax credits, would be phased out over the five years following enactment of the proposed bill.

To learn more about Citizens' Climate Lobby, check its website: CitizensClimateLobby.org. To get in touch with the Wooster chapter contact Betty Schuler at bkschuler450@yahoo.com.



**Wish a Happy Birthday to:
Tony Beery & Morgan Bostdorff-O'Rourke**

Leadership Development in December

Submitted by Dan O'Rourke

Change has been a topic of our services for several weeks – memories and change, change in the world, and political change as themes for services. So, it should not be terribly surprising that I would choose that as the subject of this entry. The UUFWC is celebrating its 50th year and all the good fortune it has had in its history. Visionary leaders, people willing to challenge conventions, and families that have sacrificed and given generously to support the vision of the UUFWC. Still, no organization can survive by standing still. As we enter the 21st century, we are facing new issues and need to cultivate new voices and ideas. This is a way of saying that we need some new people to consider accepting leadership roles. In the not too distant future, the Leadership development Team will be reaching out to the community to recruit new Board members and members of the Leadership Team. If you are approached, we would ask that you consider the possibility. Maybe you do not see yourself in that role, but others in our community may have seen those qualities in you. Everyone is busy but most people find the experience to be one of growth and reward. You will be tested in new ways among a community that values your ideas and perspectives. Talk to former Board members and most (believe it or not) will speak well of the experience. Remember, you are never alone and you will be working with people who share your values (which may not be true of your work or previous committee experiences).



UU International Dance Party

**Friday, Dec 9th
7-11pm**

**Dance to the top 3
songs of 25 countries!**

Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Wayne County
3186 Burbank Rd
Wooster, OH
330-391-1472
uufwc.org

Let's Dance!

**Join Fellowship Friends from around the
world to dance the night away at the
UUFWC!**

**Students from different nationalities
represented at OSU-Wooster will choose 3
songs from their home country to play
during the night.**

**We will also welcome an Indian Dancing
Group and participate in a West African
(Liberian) Dance led by Susan English who
learned it when she taught in Cote d'Ivoire.**

**ALL welcome and invited
Guaranteed good time!**

This Month's Meetings

See all the events on our website: <https://uufwc.org/calendar/>

Meetings may be held in-person or via Zoom. Please contact the meeting leader listed below prior to the meeting to get the Zoom link.

The Humanist Group will meet on the first and third Sundays in the Large Group Meeting Room at 11:30am.

- **Dec. 4** NO MEETING
- **Dec. 11** The Coming Civil War - Lowell Steinbrenner and Rev. Walter Clark
- **Dec. 18** Ethics, Morality, and Justice -- James Griffith

If you are not on the Humanist Group email list, but would like to receive meeting reminders and other information, please send your email address to sherri.goch@gmail.com.

The Sunday evening book discussion group will meet on Sunday, December 4th at 7pm to discuss *New Women in the Old West: From Settlers to Suffragists an Untold American Story* by Winifred Gallagher. For further information contact Bert at bishop.eleven@gmail.com.

Choir Rehearsal Wednesdays at 7-8pm. Folk rehearsal rehearsals Wednesdays at 8:15-9pm. For more info, contact Sharon Delgadillo, Music Director music.director@uufwc.org

Stand Up for Justice: The UUFWC Racial Justice Team would like to invite the members of the fellowship to join us on the 4th Sunday of each month from 12 to 1 PM at the Wooster Square. We will stand vigil for racial justice. Make your own sign or use signs that are available at the site. Enjoy the presence of your UU friends as we stand in solidarity with BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color).

The Men's Group meets on the third Thursday at 7pm. All men are invited to this group to explore what's working in your life and what you would like to change. Every meeting stands alone, so newcomers and drop-ins are always welcome. Contact David Paul.

The Women's Group meets for lunch at the UUFWC the second Tuesday of each month at 12:30pm. Meet in the sanctuary. All UUFWC women are welcome with or without your lunch. We have no agenda except to chat, share, laugh and enjoy each other's company. Any questions can be directed to Karen.uufwc@gmail.com.

Zen Meditation Returns! Every Monday night at 7pm. Gather in the far corner of Strawn Hall. Contact Steve Berg for details.

The Pastoral Care Team will be meeting the 4th Sunday of each month at 11:30am. If you have Pastoral Care needs, please feel free to contact Rev. Walter at his email address (rev@uufwc.org) or any of the other Pastoral Care members. That includes, Gail Woosley, Steve Berg, Sue Gross, Chris Struzik, or Cherrill Wertz. To anyone who may want to join our team, please contact Rev. Walter for information.

UU Ukes meet the 4th Friday at 7pm in the Large Group Room. Next meeting September 23rd.

Sitting Chair Yoga Mondays from 10-10:45am in the Large Group Room. Participants with limited mobility engage in poses and stretches that are gentle on the body but that help gain strength, flexibility, and balance. Classes will be taught by Debora Galaz, a 200-hour certified yoga teacher with a specialized license for Sitting Chair Yoga. *Suggested donation \$5.*

The Wooster Bike Party will meet on the 2nd Friday (12/9) at 3:30pm on Friday at the UU (weather permitting). We'll ride down to the Muellner Park, through the College of Wooster, back at the UU around 5pm.

Dog Park Meetup & Hiking are hibernating until Spring of 2023.

See our website for the most current meeting guidelines regarding Covid precautions.

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County is a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Assoc.

How to Find Us: We are located at 3186 Burbank Road, in Wooster, 330-262-9194.

Our weekly Worship Services are in person on Sunday mornings at 10am or watch the service on Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/uufwc. A recording is made available through the Google Groups email, later that day.

Board of Directors: President: Rachel Relle, Vice President: Laura Burch, Secretary: Bonnie Groop, Janice Baxstrom, Merry Gentry, Barb L. Moore, and Barbara Moore.

There is a new phone system! The staff now have individual voicemail boxes: 330-262-9194

Minister: Rev. Walter Clark: rev@uufwc.org

- Office Hours Mondays and Tuesdays from 1pm - 4pm
- TEXT is the best way to communicate, then phone call. E-mail only if you do not need an immediate response.

Office Administrator: Joanna Swartzentruber: fellowship@uufwc.org

- Mon, Wed, Fri: 9am - 1 pm

Director of Religious Education: Jenni Troy Papp: dre@uufwc.org

Youth Ministries Coordinator: Jessica Eikleberry: ymc@uufwc.org

Membership Coordinator: Karen Skubik: karen.uufwc@gmail.com

Music Director: Sharon Delgadillo: music.director@uufwc.org

If you have news that you would like to have included in the Monthly Newsletter, send it to newsletter@uufwc.org by the 17th of each month.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County
3186 Burbank Road
Wooster, Ohio 44691

www.uufwc.org

*The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
is an inclusive community for spiritual exploration
dedicated to social and environmental justice.*



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