



## UUFWC NEWSLETTER: DECEMBER 2023

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### 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, on our website, and on our Facebook page, later that day.*

**December 3 - The Answer Is Not Having The Answer - Rev. Walter Clark, Minister**

Despite our best efforts, we cannot know everything. While the pursuit of knowledge is admirable and necessary, there are mysteries in life that we may not see answered in our lifetime, if ever. Is that a bad thing?

**December 10 - A UU Nativity - Jenni Papp, Dir. of Religious Ed. & Rev. Walter Clark, Minister**

This morning we re-tell this ancient story for the essential spiritual truths it holds. As Unitarian Universalists, we believe that Jesus was an inspired spiritual teacher and compelling social revolutionary. We gather to experience it's teachings once again through story, song, and reflection

**December 13 - Blue Christmas - Rev. Walter Clark, Minister**

Sometimes it is hard to be happy at Christmas time. For some it is a reminder of family connections that are gone or never were. Whether you are missing someone you lost, lamenting an empty nest or just need a place to breathe quietly, this meditative evening service is to help hold that space for you.

**December 17 - Winter Solstice - Rev. Walter Clark, Minister & Sharon Delgadillo, Music Director**

Music director Sharon Delgadillo and Rev. Walter Clark embrace the season of the longest night in this service together.

**December 24 - 10 am Great Expectations - Rev. Walter Clark, Minister**

Christmas Eve is filled with hope and mystery. The brightly wrapped boxes are under the tree, and you know tomorrow that you be able to open each of them and see what you got. But is the not knowing better than the actual present?

### **December 24 - 6 pm Carols and Stories - Rev. Walter Clark, Minister**

Join us for the traditional songs of the season, the candlelit version of Silent Night and stories about some of our favorite Christmas songs.

**December 31 - TBA**

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## **Minister's Meditations *Rev. Walter Clark***

I love Christmas movies. I blame my mother for this. She always had a movie playing in the background and this time of year there was a heavy rotation of White Christmas, Miracle on 34 th Street, Scrooge (with Albert Finney), all the Rankin and Bass claymation movies (Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, Santa Claus is Comin' to Town, The Year Without a Santa Claus) and on occasion National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation.

I consider myself to be a bit of a Christmas movie expert, if such a thing exists. I often find myself arguing with others of my generation as to whether or not Die Hard is a Christmas movie (it is not) as well as The Nightmare Before Christmas (it is). For me it always comes down to the story being told. What is the movie trying to tell us about the holiday season? How does it leave us feeling afterwards? Is it in the spirit of Christmas?

Recently I re-watched Miracle on 34th Street (the 1947 black and white version with Maureen O'Hara, John Payne and Natalie Wood). It was as cute as I remembered it and the courtroom scene at the end was as amusing and uplifting as ever. However, what surprised me was the insistence of the spirit of the season. Kris Kringle is angered at the commercialization of the holiday and how folks are forgetting the wonder and joy of the season. Fred Gailey (the lawyer) is working to help Doris Walker (the Macy's manager) rediscover her sense of wonder, mystery, and play. The story is not so much about convincing a judge that a nice old man is the actual Santa Claus. The story is about maintaining a sense of wonder and mystery in a world that insists on facts as the only way of being in the world.

To me, what makes a Christmas movie is a sense of wonder and the fantastical. The idea that goodness is often in the smallest and most unlikely of places. That the hope to save all of humanity rests in the life of a small child born of the most modest means. That light persists even when all should only last for a few days. That the most miserly of men can turn his life around overnight. This is the time of year where we find hope in places that logically don't make sense.

However you celebrate the winter holidays, I hope you remember the lessons that the stories of this time of year tell us. That there is hope in mystery, that beauty exists in the humblest of places, and that joy is always an option.

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# mUUsic Program News!



We now have mUUsic Program brochures to add to the visitors' welcome packets, and the brochures will also be available in the brochure rack in the lobby. Take a look at all the ways you can take part in musical activities at the UUFWC!

The Music Committee would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to pull off a successful Madrigal Feaste, and give a particular shoutout to Barb Long Moore, organizer and boar's head roaster extraordinaire, James Griffith and Sue Gross, who created the delicious Feaste, Gail Woosley, who re-created the sets at the last minute, Chris Stormer, who made the choir and court musicians sound terrific, Mary Wicks who masterfully coordinated volunteers, and Peg Redinbaugh and the cleanup crew who kept everything at a modern-day level of sanitation! We appreciate all the work and enthusiasm, from the smallest mummer to the Queen of Bliss, who made it such an enjoyable event.

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## mUUsic Activities:

Guitar Group: Sundays, 8:30 am

Choir: Wednesdays, 7 pm

Folk Orchestra: Wednesdays, 8:15 pm

Drum Circle: Second Thursday each month, 6 pm

UU Ukes: Fourth Friday each month, 7 pm - Hiatus until

2024



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## '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 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.

### 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. [\[fellowship@uufwc.org\]](mailto:fellowship@uufwc.org).

# FUNd Raising Committee

Submitted by Barb Tytula



## UUFWC First Annual **COOKIE WALK**

Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am - 5:00pm (or until sold out)

Homemade 🍪 Holiday cookies, 🍬 candies, 🥣 savory snacks: \$8 per pound



Holiday Bread: priced per each



Homemade Dog Treats: Packaged separately, Priced per each



Fresh brewed coffee

**Wonderful Bakers Needed! Our success depends on YOU!**  
Start baking and freezing your treats to donate. Freezing them with  
a paper towel in the container will help them keep fresh.

**Gluten, Dairy, Nut free and Vegan options especially welcome.**

**Every baked good will have a notation of ingredients to keep  
everyone safe. Items will also be displayed separately for safety.**

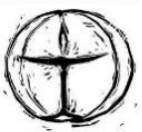
Erin Palmer [ebbosley@hotmail.com](mailto:ebbosley@hotmail.com)

See Barb Tytula [bgft1953@gmail.com](mailto:bgft1953@gmail.com)

Questions? Baker Volunteering?

Look for Baking sign up sheet in the Lobby.

th @ 12noon – 6:00 pm. Donations accepted Friday, December 15



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County  
Main Lobby and Strawn Hall

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***From Director of Religious Education, Jenni Papp***

We would love to welcome more adult guides into our RE Community as leaders or assistants. Please reach out to Jenni Papp at [dre@uufwc.org](mailto:dre@uufwc.org) if you would like to have a conversation about how you can join us and build relationships while you journey in our faith with the youngest UUs.

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**December** is full of Winter Holiday Fun and Learning

**December 3 - Let's Get Ready for Our Winter Holiday Pageant**

We have supplies to gather and a nativity story to learn about. People of all ages are welcome to join us as we get ready.

**December 10 - A UU Nativity**

This all ages worship service will be a no-rehearsal event as we invite folx to pop-up, get a costume, and participate in the ancient story of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Costumes, props, songs, and halos!



**December 17 - Winter Solstice**

All-ages join together for a Solstice RE gathering after the Time for All Ages in worship.

**December 24 - Holiday Fun Day**

**December 31 - No RE**

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

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



Contact Jenni at [DRE@UUFWC.org](mailto:DRE@UUFWC.org) with questions.

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## 'Tis the Season to Explore Religion!



**December 3** - Work together to get ready for our UU Nativity Pageant the following week. We need big kid help!

**December 10** - Come to worship to play a part in our pageant, sing some songs and recreate the ancient story of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.

**December 17** - Let's learn more about Christianity as we prepare for our upcoming field trip to First Presbyterian in January.

**December 23, It's a Saturday Evening!** - We will travel together to visit the UU Church of Akron for their annual **Yule service** led by Rebekah Benner, a UU and ordained Earth-Spirit minister. Watch for more details.

Email Jenni at [dre@uufwc.org](mailto:dre@uufwc.org) if you can help with driving that evening.

**December 24** - No RE - Join Rev. Walter for a Christmas Eve-morning service

**December 31** - No RE

**January 7** - Visit to First Presbyterian in Wooster for worship and conversation with their minister, Rev. David Rice. (To attend you must have attended RE on either November 12 or December 17 when we are learning about Christianity.)

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## Membership (and Fun Stuff) News

**Committee:** *Laura Grimm (chair), Cherrill Wertz (secretary and greeter facilitator), Jay Klemme, Laura Moore, Barb Tytula, Don Ackerman, **Kaitlynn Arnholt (our newest committee member)**, and Karen Skubik (Membership Coordinator)*



**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ATTENDED  
our Thanksgiving Feast**

**A lovely group broke bread together on November 23rd. There was turkey and all the trimmings as well as laughter and a good time to be shared. We're already looking forward to next year's UFWC Thanksgiving gathering!**

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## **Library News** *Submitted by Kay Bowen, UUFWC Librarian*

NARRATIVE AND GRIEF: AUTOETHNOGRAPHIES OF LOSS Edited by Deleasa Randall-Griffiths and Patricia English-Schneider 155.937 Rand 2023

Thank you to Deleasa Randall-Griffiths, a member of our congregation, who donated this new title to our UUFWC library. A professor in the Department of Communication Studies at Ashland University, Deleasa is an editor of this volume as well as author of one of its chapters.

The quotation below is from the book's back cover:

"Grief and loss are fundamental aspects of the human experience. Narrative and Grief examines the desire to make sense out of the nonsensical by exploring specific stories of loss and grief, including the loss of a parent, a child, or partner; loss within larger family systems; ambiguous and anticipatory loss; and broader cultural aspects of grief. The autoethnographic essays in this book reflect on the unique and individual experiences of each contributor's story. Simultaneously, these essays reveal that although each grief experience is unique, it is also collective, evoking broader cultural themes related to loss and grief. Scholars of communication, sociology, and family studies will find this book of particular interest."

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## **Social Action in Action** *Submitted by Betty Schuler*

**ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET** is coming to Wooster on Sunday, December 3 at First Presbyterian Church in Wooster from 11:30 am to 2 pm. This is an annual opportunity to purchase shares of financial gifts that provide hunger relief, quality education, environmental protection, empowerment of women and health and well-being in the U.S. and internationally. Visit the displays of the projects offered and make your selections. The purchase of a \$5 share of a gift provides a description of it and a greeting card in which to enclose it. According to the parent organization, Alternative Gifts International, these are gifts "that are sustainable and that build stability for people and their communities to help end their suffering. These alternative gifts multiply and grow and offer hope and new life to people and communities facing grave crisis and need. These gifts challenge the trivia of our modern culture of consumerism. These are authentic gifts that will change lives. They are always the perfect gift for any occasion." While at the Gift Market, you can also purchase Fair Trade items and have lunch.

**SALVATION ARMY SERVICES:** we've just rang the bell for the Salvation Army. Often our thoughts turn to its shelter, but are you aware of the many social services this organization provides to our community to help people through tough times? For the homeless there are a number of services in addition to the shelter which provides beds for men, women and some families. Started in 2020, the Living Room, a day center, opened to provide a place to go for those struggling with homelessness. Open from 10 am to 3 pm, it provides a place for people to go during the day. The center features a sitting area, phone charging stations, computer access, a warm meal and shower and laundry facilities. It acts as a hub to give clients access to community resources such as social services, transportation serves and mental health and substance abuse counseling. At this time the Salvation Army also provides space for the Severe Weather Shelter, operated by Homeward Bound of Wooster and Wayne County. This service provides beds and a meal for the homeless from December 1 to



March 31. Among its other activities are disaster services, emergency financial assistance, food and nutrition programs, emergency shelter, casework services, visitation services, camping activities, senior citizens clubs, day camp activities along with a variety of religious ministries for women, men and youth

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## **All Things Green** *Submitted by Betty Schuler*

The BIG WIRES Act: On 9/18/23 Senator John Hickenlooper (D) and Representative Scott Peters (R) introduced the **Building Integrated Grids With Interregional Energy Supply Act (BIG WIRES Act)** to update and streamline the country's energy transmission system. The U.S. electricity system is a patchwork of undersized and aging lines. Few transmission routes reach the nation's best solar and wind resources, and most are unable to move bulk power between the various regional grids. This transmission shortfall is contributing to grid outages across the country and inflating energy prices for American families and businesses. Since 2014 North America has built just 7 gigawatts of large-scale interregional transmission compared to 44 gigawatts in Europe and 260 gigawatts in China during the same period.

More and more states have passed renewable energy laws and net zero goals, ultimately resulting in more renewable energy development. However these projects rely on transmission build-outs without which the aggressive transition to clean energy cannot be implemented. Decarbonizing the U.S. by 2050 will require at least tripling its capacity. According to researchers at Princeton University's ZERO lab, nearly half the emissions reductions promised by the Inflation Reduction Act between now and 2030 could be sacrificed if transmission upgrades continue at their current pace. The Department of Energy projects that the U.S. grid must incorporate over 2.5 terawatts of wind, solar, battery and other clean energy tech within the next several decades.

The BIG WIRES Act requires regions to be able to transfer 30% of their peak demand between regions. Such energy sharing would reduce the need to build new energy infrastructure. Interregional transmission would make the grid more efficient, in the same way that interstate highways make our road systems more efficient. The bill is technology neutral: all types of generation – fossil, renewable and nuclear need transmission to connect to the grid.

This bill would cost the U.S. government no money. The regions are responsible for deciding who builds and pays for new transmission lines. Its benefits include: 1. improved reliability – a new minimum-transfer requirement would increase reliability by allowing for greater power flows between regions, adding a layer of defense against extreme weather events; 2. reduced costs – the expanded transfer capabilities would dramatically lower energy prices for Americans; 3. tech-neutrality- all types of generation need transmission to connect to the grid.

According to the National Audubon Society, 'The BIG WIRES Act would help pave the way for the rapid decarbonization of the electrical grid while reducing impact on wildlife habitats and ensuring a high level of reliability and resilience for consumers and businesses across the country.' Contact your U.S. Representative and Senators to urge them to support the BIG WIRES ACT (S.2827/H.R.5551). *sources: Citizens' Climate Lobby, Sierra Club, Alliance for Affordable Energy, National Audubon Society*

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## **EDGE (Elderhood Discussion Group)**

The EDGE folks met on October 18th, and will meet again on November 29th. A light meal will be offered at 5:30.

There were 17 people in attendance - along with an Amazing amount of Energy for the work. That work included soliciting ideas for our 2024 meetings. Steve Thomas and Connie Storck spoke to the group on this topic...which resulted in almost everyone adding their suggestions.

- Per the Interest Survey that members completed, we'll identify people who are willing to lead the creation of **movie nights; game nights; and potluck meals**; Also- I will facilitate **discussions on The Aging Brain, and Aging and Spirituality....**( the two topics which engendered the most interest). Additionally it was agreed that the group will serve as a resource for each member who needs friendly support. \*\*One of our breakout groups each month will be dedicated to this activity.

If you are interested in joining EDGE, please contact: Pat McDaniels, [pjblue2@yahoo.com](mailto:pjblue2@yahoo.com)

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## **Lay Pastoral Care**

Submitted by Chris Struzik, Lay Pastoral Care Ministry Chairperson



### **A Mindful Reminder...**

**“You can search throughout the entire universe for someone who is more deserving of your love and affection than you are yourself, and that person is not to be found anywhere. You, yourself, as much as anybody in the entire universe, deserve your love and affection.” – Buddha**

Please let us know if you would appreciate us reaching out to you by emailing [care@uufwc.org](mailto:care@uufwc.org), or by calling the church office at (330) 262-9194. Look for our “UUFWC Cares” button at service to speak to a member of our ministry.

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### **Wish a Happy Birthday to:**

**Ashley Baxstrom, Tony Beery, Morgan Bostdorff-O'Rourke, Chloe Frichtl, Noah Gochnauer, Jennifer Groman, Jaiden Hofer, Joscelynn Hoffman, Melina Mera, Ben Stavnezer, Doug Hurt**

# **This Month's Meetings**

[See all the events on our website: https://uufwc.org/calendar/](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 UU Humanist Group will meet on the first and third Sunday of each month **at 11:30** in the Large Group Room.

- On **December 3** Krista Kidney will inform us about 180 Housing followed by questions and discussion. (Rescheduled from Nov. 19.)
- On **December 17** Scot and Karen Armstrong will give a presentation on veganism followed by questions and discussion.

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](mailto:sherri.goch@gmail.com).

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On **December 3** the Sunday night book group will hold its November meeting. For the meeting we chose *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted Faith and Fractured a Nation* by Kristin Kobes Du Me. We meet at 7:00 in the Library. For more information contact Bert at [bishop.eleven@gmail.com](mailto:bishop.eleven@gmail.com).

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**Choir Rehearsal Wednesdays at 7-8pm.** If you have considered joining your voice with ours, mark your calendar.

**Folk rehearsal rehearsals Wednesdays at 8:15-9pm.** It doesn't matter your playing level, come and make a joyful noise with us!

For more info, contact Sharon Delgadillo, Music Director [music.director@uufwc.org](mailto:music.director@uufwc.org)

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**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).

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**"Coffee With the Minister" every second Sunday after the service** unless a Introductory UU Inquiry Session is offered (see above under Membership for information on this November's UU Inquiry event).

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**Women's Lunch Group**, Tuesday, December 12th, 12:30 pm. While several viruses are looming in the area, we will meet at the fellowship building in the back of Strawn Hall (instead of going out to eat). We have no agenda except to enjoy each other's company. Any questions can be directed to [Karen.uufwc@gmail.com](mailto:Karen.uufwc@gmail.com). Come join us!

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

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**The Pastoral Care Team will be meeting the 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

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**UU Ukes meet the 4th Friday at 7pm in the Large Group Room. UU Ukes is on hiatus until 2024**

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**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](http://www.facebook.com/uufwc). A recording is made available through the Google Groups email, later that day.*

**Board of Directors:** Laura Burch - President, Jo Harper – VP, Barb Moore – Secretary, Sarah Miles - Treasurer, Janice Baxstrom, Barb Long Moore, Merry Gentry, Barbara Moore, and Jim Bird.

**Minister:** Rev. Walter Clark: [rev@uufwc.org](mailto:rev@uufwc.org), Phone 330-262-9194, Ext #1

- 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](mailto:fellowship@uufwc.org), Ext #0

- Sun, Mon, Fri: 9am - 12 pm

**Director of Religious Education:** Jenni Troy Papp: [dre@uufwc.org](mailto:dre@uufwc.org), Ext #2

**Membership Coordinator:** Karen Skubik: [karen.uufwc@gmail.com](mailto:karen.uufwc@gmail.com), Ext #4

**Music Director:** Sharon Delgadillo: [music.director@uufwc.org](mailto:music.director@uufwc.org), Ext #3

*If you have news that you would like to have included in the Monthly Newsletter, send it to [newsletter@uufwc.org](mailto:newsletter@uufwc.org) by the 17th of each month.*

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

[www.uufwc.org](http://www.uufwc.org)

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



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County