



UUFWC NEWSLETTER: AUGUST 2024

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.

August 04 - Univelarian Fantastickal Forest Guild Jenni Papp, Director of Religious Education

A community of children, youth, and adults spent a week in the magical land of Univelaria for the annual meeting of the Fantastickal Forest Guild. Join us for their report back to the congregation of their fantastickal time exploring Preemptive Radical Inclusion* and the Love of UUism with story, songs, snacks, crafts, and games with the Guild Mascot, Peri the Racoonicorn!

* (as coined by CB Beal of Justice and Peace Consulting)

August 11 - TBA Melissa Jeter, Guest Speaker

August 18 & 25 - TBA Rev. Walter Clark, Minister

Board Report: *From Jo Harper, Vice President, on behalf of the Board*

Happy August, friends!

Our congregation does not slow down in the summer! This summer, in addition to the awesome Fourth of July gathering, the upcoming UU summer camp, General Assembly, and some wonderful speakers while Rev. Walter is on vacation, there's a lot going on behind the scenes! Our committees are hard at work prepping for the upcoming year, and we have an ad hoc committee working on gathering solar power options to present to the congregation, and another ad hoc committee looking to hire a religious education professional for our beloved congregation. We wish Jenni Papp the best in her new role!

In August, the Board has their retreat, where we set our goals for the coming congregational year, review our policies, and plan out some events. Our June meeting saw us welcome our three new members: Steve Thomas, James Griffith, and Kaitlynn Arnholt. We deeply appreciate Laura Burch's time as President, and Janice Baxstrom and Merry Gentry for all of their insight and excellence on the Board.

We're looking forward to the fall! Please keep an eye out for a wonderful variety of ways that you can be involved. One thing I love about this congregation is that there is a space for every person, every talent, and every level of energy that you have to contribute. Please don't be shy about asking anyone if you want to be more involved. We're looking forward to seeing everyone as school resumes and travel cuts back.

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee has wrapped up its 2024-2025 Annual Pledge Drive. Our new fiscal year begins on July 1, 2024 and runs through June 30, 2025.

**During the pledge drive, we received 113 pledges totaling \$260,934.
A giant THANK YOU for the generosity of so many members and friends!**

There is still time to submit a pledge for 2024-2025. If you have not pledged yet, please: [Click Here to Pledge Online](#)

Your Stewardship Committee - Scot Armstrong, Tony Beery, Tim Breiner, Connie Storck, Barbara Wilson, and Bonnie Groop (Chair)

Safety Team

I wanted to express my appreciation to all those who participated in our evacuation/fire drill on May 19th. This was the first drill since building expansion and may have been the first ever for all congregants. (RE did them previously). With so many "firsts", it went very smoothly. We were all able to exit the building within 1 min, 30 seconds, including checking all rooms and bathrooms for those who did not exit. We did have some lessons learned and will work on improvement plans. The safety committee continues to make improvements to our building as we identify hazards and are working on our quick reference and comprehensive safety plans. I am available to discuss any concerns or suggestions anyone has. Please reach out. It takes a community to help us all be safer.

Adam Keating
Chair, UUFWC Safety Committee
dradamkeating@gmail.com

News from the FUNdraising Committee

To those who have volunteered, donated food and items, and made purchases at UUFWC FUNdraising events - THANK YOU! Your support is critical to achieving our mission to build community, welcome visitors, and raise operating funds for the Fellowship. Here's what you've helped us accomplish so far in 2024:

- **Souper Sundays** – Delicious soup and bread plus good conversation. Funds raised: \$550.
- **Clothing Swap** – Affordable, green shopping. Funds raised: \$125.
- **Yard Sale** – More affordable, green shopping! Funds raised: \$1,612.

What's next? Mark your calendars for the **Cookie Walk** on **December 13**. We'll be asking for home-baked cookie donations and help in spreading the word. And, we're exploring other FUN events. Your ideas are always welcome as are new committee members – just reach out to one of us.

FUNdraising Committee: Sammi Beery, James Griffith, Jay Klemme, Carol Noel, Erin Palmer, Barb Tytula, Mary Wicks (chair), Wendy Ziegler-Clark

mUUSIC Program News!



The mUUSIC singalong in June was a big hit—s'mores, a bonfire, hot dog roast and potluck goodies made it a great party, topped off by a hot air balloon sighting!



If you missed it, and want to see if the UU music program is a good fit for you, please join us for the Kickoff Party for the 20124-2025 season of song and music!



Music Program Kickoff Potluck Picnic
Saturday, August 17
5 pm @ the UU
Bring a chair, your instrument(s), your voice and a side dish—main dishes will be provided for vegetarians and omnivores



mUUSIC Activities:

Guitar Group: Mondays, 6 pm

Choir: Wednesdays, 7 pm

Folk Orchestra: Mondays, 7 pm

Drum Circle: Second Thursday each month, 6 pm - currently on pause

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

'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 August, we will share the plate with Central American Medical Outreach (CAMO).**

Learn more at: <https://www.camo.org/>

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].



From Director of Religious Education, Jenni Papp

August 4th is a worship service for people of all ages. The members of the Univelarian Fantastickal Forest Guild will be reporting back about their annual meeting that was held this past week at the UUFWC. Please join us to learn about Peri the Racoonicorn and amazing beings that make up the Guild.

August 11th is RE in Room 1 with time for sharing and painting! We begin at 10:00am.

August 18th is The Last Splash of Summer at The Lake in Norton, Ohio. We will have an outdoor worship service beginning at 10:30. Then, we have the rest of the day for grillin' and chillin' in the pavillion, lakeside, at the volleyball court or any other fun activities. Please bring a dish to share, hotdogs, notdogs, burgers, veggie burgers. We will provide water and lemonade too! Bring a dish to share!

It would help if you let us know that you think you will be attending by filling out this form! <https://uufwc.org/2024/07/29/lake-day-august-13th-2/>

Thanks to an anonymous donor this year, Lake Day admissions have been covered!

August 25th is RE beginning at 10am in a classroom.



Everything we do is Faith Formation

Everything we teach is Unitarian Universalism

The Congregation is the Curriculum

-Connie Goodbread

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 the Heart of
Congregational Life
at
The Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Wayne County

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 with questions.

Membership (and Fun Stuff) News

Committee: Laura Grimm (chair), Kaitlynn Arnholt (secretary), Barb Tytula, Don Ackerman, Cathy Stanley, Steve Thomas, Bonnie Groop, and Karen Skubik (Membership Coordinator)



Just look at all the smiling faces on our committee chairs for our 2024-2025 fiscal year. That must mean it's fun to serve on a committee. Right?

Interested in joining one or helping one of the other listed "Key Contacts" in their role supporting our fellowship?

They all welcome conversation with anyone interested in how their committee functions. There is also a list of what each committee does hanging from this

bulletin board. Take a look and see what interests you.



Many thanks to all who made the 4th of July Party at the UUFWC a success once again despite the rainy weather. Special thanks go to the heavy lifters: Laura Grimm and Kaitlynn Arnholt for their attention to all the details, Sarah Miles for donating the beef, Gail for grilling, Jay for leading the cleanup, and everyone who pitched in with set up, planning games, washing dishes, and bringing a smiling face. About 50 folks (new and long-time UUFWC-ers) showed up with dishes to share and the openness to enjoy each other's company.

We Welcome All - and ALL Should be Welcoming!!

We welcome ALL to be a part of our wonderful congregation, but whose job is it to do so?

Every Sunday morning when you enter our building you are welcomed by a trained door greeter, and probably several other stationed greeters (visitor greeter, Strawn Hall greeter, and others). When the service starts, you are welcomed by our Worship Associate and Membership Coordinator. But, the welcoming shouldn't stop there.

How can YOU be more welcoming?

- Wear your name tag
- Try to learn the names of others - and this is easier if everyone wears their name tags. (You can convert to a clip-on name tag anytime if you don't like the pin on type.)
- Reach out to those you don't recognize and try to learn a little about them.
- Help our visitors and those new to our congregation connect to activities they would enjoy.

Our greeter team can't always connect with all our visitors, so we need everyone to reach out to those who haven't made connections yet. Thanks for being a part of our welcoming ministry!!

Safety for ALL

On June 23 we had 17 members of our greeting team attend an annual Greeter Meeting and this year we focused on new safety guidelines. Our team will strive to balance their greeting with their responsibility of serving as guardians each Sunday. They've been trained on what to look for and how to respond in the event of various emergencies. Again, how can YOU help?

- Wear your name tag
- Don't congregate in the immediate entrance and leave the area near the Visitor Station visible and clutter-free.
- Talk to folks you don't know.
- Realize that your greeter friends may be "on duty" and may not be able to chat with you.
- Know where to find safety items (first aid kits, fire extinguishers, wheelchair, AED device)

Online Directory

Many of you have been successful at obtaining access to our updated online directory. By establishing your own password and accessing the directory, you can update your household's information at any time and see other congregants' contact information.

This is not accessible to the general public. Only to those who are in our system AND to those who we grant access.

Again, any contact information is not to be shared outside the congregation without someone's approval.

If you have not tried obtaining access yet, you first need to obtain a password by going to iconcmo.com/login. Insert our church phone number and create a password. This will only work if you have been given access.

If you would like a photo other than what is currently seen, please email a household photo to Karen.

If you don't have a photo of your household members, feel free to ask Karen or someone else on any Sunday to snap a photo.

For those of you who know how to download apps on your smart phone and would like to access the directory on your phone, once you have a password, you can go to the App Store and search for IconCMO. You will see a bird silhouette and can load this app for free.

Having trouble with any of this - check with Karen.uufwc@gmail.com.

If you would prefer a paper copy, also let Karen know. We will not be printing the directory in mass since it is constantly in need of updating. This way anytime it is printed, we will provide the most updated information.

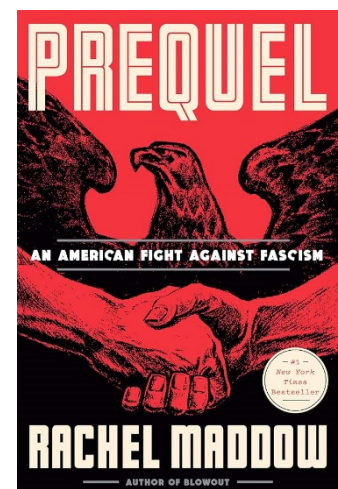
Vegan Potluck Submitted by Karen Armstrong



Join us on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:15 for lively conversation and good food. The next date is **August 27th**. Please bring a vegan dish to share, your own table service and drink. Not sure what to bring? A bowl of fruit or sliced vegetables are always welcome. If your New Years Resolution was to eat more fruits and veg or to get out and mingle more, this is the time and the place!! All are welcome! Please reach out to me at armstrongkaren93@gmail.com if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

Book Group

The next meeting of the Sunday night book group will be on Sunday, September 15. We will discuss *Prequel: An American Fight Against Facism* by Rachel Maddow. We will meet at 7:00 in the Library. Coming in October *The Deluge* by Stephen Markley. For any questions contact Bert. bishop.eleven@gmail.com.

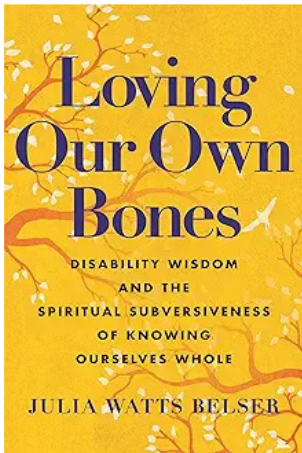


Library News

Submitted by Kay Bowen, UUFWC Librarian

Julia Watts Belser, the author of the title described below, was the Ware Lecturer at our UUA 2024 General Assembly. The descriptive quotation is from the book's front inside flap:

LOVING OUR BONES: DISABILITY WISDOM AND THE SPIRITUAL SUBVERSIVENESS OF KNOWING OURSELVES WHOLE By Julia Watts Belser 362.40973 Bel 2023



“Julia Watts Belser gets stopped by strangers wanting to know what’s wrong with her. But what’s wrong isn’t her wheelchair – it’s exclusion, objectification, pity, and disdain. These attitudes about disability have such deep cultural roots we almost forget their sources. But open the Bible and disability is everywhere. Moses stutters and believes he’s unable to answer God’s call. Isaac’s blindness lets his wife trick him into bestowing his blessing on his younger son. Jesus heals the sick, the blind, the paralyzed, and the possessed. For centuries, these stories have been retold by religious leaders and cultural commentators who treat disability as misfortune, as a metaphor for spiritual incapacity, or as a challenge to be overcome.

Loving Our own Bones turns that perspective on its head. A scholar, an activist, a rabbi, and a fearless writer, Belser delves deeply into sacred literature, braiding the insights of disabled, feminist, Black, and queer thinkers alongside her own experiences as a queer disabled Jewish feminist to gift us with a radical act of spiritual imagination. Her fresh readings of familiar biblical stories demonstrate how disability wisdom can guide us all toward a powerful reckoning with the complexities of the flesh. She challenges biblical commentators who traffic in disability stigma and shame, pushing back against interpretations that demean disabled people and diminish the vitality of disabled lives. And she shows how Sabbath rest can be a powerful counter to the relentless demand for productivity, an act of spiritual resistance in a culture that makes work the signal measure of our worth. Loving Our Own Bones is a transformative book – one that shows how disability can kindle the kind of embodied knowledge, ethical dissent, creativity, spiritual insight our world so desperately needs.”

More library news: The library goal for this year is to develop a checkout system that

will allow you to locate the call number of an item by author, title, or subject via your personal computer or cell phone. You will even be able to tell if the material you are searching for is available or checked out.

Once you locate the item on the UUFWC shelves, it can be signed out in the usual way. Remove the checkout card from the back of the book, filling it in with your name, date, and phone number/e-mail address. Then place the card in the small black wire basket sitting on the shelves to the left as you walk in. More news as the project progresses. We think you will like it!

Many thanks to Anne Wilson for locating this no-cost system.

UUFWC Social Action Committee (SAC)

Submitted by Peg Redinbaugh

I was so impressed by the thoughtful suggestions I heard from you at Gail's sermon on July 14. Organizing UUFWC volunteers for People to People and breakfasts at Trinity UCC, supporting the new 'warming shelter' in Wooster, food security issues across our region are all great ideas. These, as well as social action ideas sent directly to Gail, will be on our agenda(s) as we restart meeting in September 17th .

Several wonderful, but time-sensitive ideas were suggested by multiple members are finding ways to support local school students, teachers and schools that is time sensitive – school starts in August. We'll work to contact the principal and teachers at Cornerstone to see what they think is most needed and see if we can develop a good plan. We would love to have to spearhead the effort. Contact Peg (see below) if you can help. Thanks in advance.

We welcome new members! In addition, we'd love to hear about any projects you'd like to see the Fellowship tackle. You can: 1) send an email to pegred73@gmail.com; 2) call Peg at 330-464-5351 (please leave a message and I will get back to you); or, come to a meeting and we'll listen. It helps if you let me know you're coming to a meeting (text is fine), so we block out time in the agenda to listen to your idea.

Our next meeting will be 7 PM September 19th (3rd Thursday) at the Fellowship. We try hard to our meetings to ≤1 h 15 min I'll send a reminder in September via googlegroups.

All Things Green

Submitted by Betty Schuler

BUEHLER'S MILLTOWN COMMUNITY SHRED DAY: Saturday, August 10th from 9 am to noon. All residential and business paper welcome, including ledger paper, adding machine tape, advertisements, booklets, brochures, copy machine paper computer paper, envelopes, colored paper (20lb). Small paper clips and staples do not have to be removed. No newspapers, phonebooks, magazines, binders, books, plastic folders, food and candy wrappers, waxed paper, napkins, styrofoam containers.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? “*greenhouse effect*”, “*global warming*”, “*climate change*” “*the climate emergency*”. The way we talk about the problem has shifted dramatically over time. A recent study of these key climate terms used in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post and USA Today between 1980 and 2023 tracks the changes in terminology favored by scientific experts as compared with usage in newspapers and internet searches by the general public.

The first mention of *global warming* was in a 1975 scientific study, although through the 1980s *greenhouse effect* was still more commonly used in the newspapers. It wasn't until 1989 that *global warming* was used in these publications. By 2009 *climate change* had passed *global warming* in the newspapers, but it wasn't until 2015 that internet searches for *climate change* exceeded those for *global warming*. This suggests that the media does not have an immediate effect on the terms used by the public. Interestingly, a 2011 study demonstrated that using the term *climate change* rather than *global warming* resulted in a 16% increase in Republicans endorsing the phenomenon as real.

The media is much quicker than the general public to adopt new terminology. Suddenly in late 2018 *climate crisis*, *climate emergency* and related terms appeared in the media, most likely influenced by a sharp rise in global activism, e.g. Greta Thunberg, protests by the Sunrise Movement, opinion pieces in newspapers, scientific studies. There was a doubling between 2018 and 2019 in newspapers that used *climate crisis* and *climate emergency* and then a quadrupling of such terms between 2019 and 2020. The public, however, has not adopted these terms. Even currently online searches for *global warming* significantly exceed those for *climate crisis*.

This study notes that climate communication scholars are divided on the impact of this lag. Some studies point to the use of terms like *crisis* and *emergency* leading to distrust of news sources. Other studies find no impact on a person's willingness to engage in climate action. Yet others find that framing climate concerns as an existential threat has been shown to generate strong emotions that motivate people to act on behalf of the environment.

According to the authors, the words we use to characterize our climate concerns can influence how we view the issue and as a consequence, the actions we take. This is critical because the planet is truly experiencing a climate crisis. *Source: Yale Climate Connections*

Lay Pastoral Care: Submitted by Chris Struzik, Lay Pastoral Care Ministry Chairperson

My Brilliant Image *(by Hafiz)*

"One day the sun admitted
I am just a shadow.
I wish I could show you
The infinite incandescence
That has cast my brilliant image!
I wish I could show you,
When you are lonely or in darkness,
The Astonishing Light
Of your own Being!"



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 UU Humanist Group: We are now taking a Summer break from our regular Sunday meetings, but please mark your calendars for our first Fall meeting on Sunday, Sept. 15.

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.

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

Folk rehearsal rehearsals Mondays at 7-8 pm. 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

Women's Lunch Group, We next meet **Tuesday, August 13, 12:30 pm**. All UUFWC women are welcome to join us every second Tuesday of the month. We'll meet in the back of the sanctuary or outside on the picnic tables. Bring your lunch or just come to chat. We have no agenda except to enjoy each other's company. Any questions can be directed to Karen.uufwc@gmail.com. Come join us!

Elderhood Discussion Group Experience (E.D.G.E) . EDGE group will be meeting on Wednesday, August 21 at 5:30 pm., in the Fellowship Hall.
Contact Steve Thomas for more information

Zen Meditation! 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, Steve Berg, Sue Gross, Chris Struzik, Cherrill Wertz or Sherri Gochnauer. To anyone who may want to join our team, please contact Rev. Walter for information.



Wish a Happy Birthday to:

Kelly Chandler, Nate Chandler, Chelsea Churpek, Shelley Dixon, Maya Foltz, Scott Gross, Georgia Jaeb, Ethan Keating, Julien Lubell, Xavier Lubell, Leo Meade, Carol Noel, Theo Ollier, Ruth Sewell, Wendy Ziegler-Clark

Wish a Happy Anniversary to:

Gail & Bill Carter, Adam & Kristin Keating, Gene & Helen Meyers, Anne Wilson & Jay Klemme

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

Minister: Rev. Walter Clark: 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, Ext #0

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

Director of Religious Education: Jenni Troy Papp: dre@uufwc.org, Ext #2

Membership Coordinator: Karen Skubik: karen.uufwc@gmail.com, Ext #4

Music Director: Sharon Delgadillo: 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 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.*



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County