



UUFWC NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER 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.

September 01 - "Does Our Work Define Us?"

Rev. Walter Clark, Minister

One of the first questions we often ask when meeting someone for the first time is “What do you do for a living?” While this question is often asked with genuine curiosity, it reveals how our culture ties identity to productivity and values different types of labor. How do our values of equity and interdependence inform how we should approach work culture?

September 08 - "Water Communion"

Rev. Walter Clark, Minister

Join us for our annual Water Communion ritual. You are invited to bring water to service from a place that is special to you. Whether it be from a place you visited over the summer or your very own tap. In this exploratory service there will be different water stations to explore in community.

September 15- "The Congregation is the Curriculum"

Rev. Walter Clark, Minister

We kick off the beginning of this year’s Religious Exploration program with an introduction to our new DRE, messages from the DRE search team about the importance of Religious Exploration for our community and our faith. We also encourage that you have your school age youth (and teachers too!) bring their backpack to bless as they start the new school year.

September 22 - "Autumnal Equinox"

Rev. Walter Clark, Minister and Sharon Delgadillo

Sharon Delgadillo and Rev. Walter celebrate the changing of the seasons this Sunday and prepares us for the longer nights and colder days.

September 29 - "The Open Invitation"

Rev. Walter Clark, Minister

Our faith is deeply grounded in welcoming and inclusion. We see diversity as an asset and work to embrace all people. Yet as a faith we still struggle with racial, economic, and class diversity. How do we overcome these hurdles as a denomination?

Minister's Meditations

I've been thinking a lot about community lately. What is the secret of good community? What are the traits of a community that is thriving as opposed to one that is struggling? What keeps it together? Which is more vital: growth or connection? Is there a secret formula or is each community so inherently different that there is no one common thread?

I have found in that past that community thrives when everyone is invested in the same thing. When I would act in shows, the play was the common thread that we all loved. When the show was over, that little community stopped existing. I used to play an on-line videogame and met a group of folks on-line. We soon began to set up time to meet in game to tackle large in-game events, it became a little virtual community. As time went on, we began to get bored with the game one by one. Soon people stopped showing up, they had found something new to occupy their focus. Any group that I have been a part of (e.g. workplaces, comedy troupes, parents of our kids friends) a common theme brought us together and good relationships were formed, but when the common theme began to fall apart, so did the group.

Having a common goal or mission brings people together. It gives them something to bond over. As a faith community, we have a common mission. We believe that this world could be a better place. As a Unitarian Universalist community, we believe that there is something greater than ourselves that calls us to that. It may be a personal theology, a spiritual experience, the guiding humanist principle that we are capable of good without any supernatural element and that we have a duty to make the world a better place. As UUFWC our common goal is to have a place in Wooster that allows folks to explore that idea and find ways to make our small corner of the world better.

And I am wondering, what does that look like?

What if UUFWC focused on one large project together? What if we found something that our little village needs and we worked to make it happen? This congregation has done great things for the environment. Our building was the first LEEDS certified house of worship *in the country!* What if we found another environmental based project, something to help the planet at



best and Wooster at least.

I know we have a lot of folks who work in environmentalism in some way, shape or form. What do you think would be a good long-term project for UUFWC? I would love to hear from you at rev@uufwc.org. If I get a few real good ideas, I will have a meeting after service one day where we can discuss them as a congregation, find a good one to do and start planning. If you think there is another long term project that the congregation could be a part of that would help Wooster or Wayne county, let me know.

I don't know if this will strengthen our community. I don't know if this will get us more members or increase the engagement of members that we have. I do know that in the process of trying this, we might do some good for the world. Isn't that why we're here?

Board Report

What a joy to welcome in September! We're looking forward to the upcoming church year, and feeling the warmth of community as we come back together from our summer travels and travails. I wanted to take a moment to introduce you to your Board for this year:

- Laura Burch is our Past President. Laura lives in Wooster with a 40human, 2-dog family: Chris, Eleanor, Violet, Kai, Rune, and Hildi Pickles. Laura enjoys learning foreign languages, embroider, quilting, gardening, and hammock-lounging.
- Jo Harper is the Board President for the '24-'25 year. Jo lives in Wooster with her spouse, Carson, and their 5th grader, Elliott. Jo likes reading, food, going outside, and creative practices done with more enthusiasm than technique.
- Sarah Miles is our Treasurer. Sarah lives in Wooster with her husband, Wayne and their two feline companions. When she is not working at the funeral home, she likes to visit old cemeteries, visit the wonderful State Park Lodges, go to the Cleveland Orchestra, drag shows and do a bit of reading. At the Fellowship, along with being the treasurer, she is also involved in the Choir, Youth Group Leader and on the Committee on Ministry. She is also the treasurer of our local AAUW branch and takes a week of vacation every year to work the book sale at the fairgrounds (and loves every minute of it).
- Steve Thomas is joining the Board as Vice President. Steve, a semi-retired social worker, lives in Wooster with his husband, Mike Peterson. Steve likes reading, gardening (most of the time), jigsaw puzzles, some word games in the New York Times, chocolate and other sweet treats, and helping glaze pottery pieces created by his husband.
- Barb Moore is resuming her role as Board Secretary. Barb (Folk Orchestra Barb Moore!) plays the button accordion, and enjoys gardening, reading, walking, and various needlecrafts. Barb lives in Wooster with her husband, Mike Lagana, and they enjoy going to Irish traditional music sessions together in Wooster and around Ohio.

- Barb Long Moore uses her maiden name to distinguish from our other UU Barbara Moore. Barb lives between Creston and Wooster with her German shepherd, Willow. She enjoys reading, crocheting, seed bead embroidery, weaving; Barb also loves the outdoors and fishing.
- Kaitlynn joined the Board this year, to finish out two years of a past Board member's term. Kaitlynn Arnholt lives in Wooster with her husband Brad, and their kiddos Jack (9) and Charlie (7). Kaitlynn loves doing logic puzzles, listening to and creating music, and playing board games.
- James Griffith joined the Board this year! James is raising 3 grandchildren, living in Orrville. His time is spent with his partner Carol, and his grandchildren. James plays percussion instruments, and loves meditation, cooking, and trying new recipes. James is a quiet person who learns by observing, and he likes reading.

I loved learning these things about my fellow Board members. I hope that this helps you get to know your Board, and gives you something to talk with us about when you see us around! Our August meeting saw us begin the process of establishing our Board covenant, and setting the foundation for our goals for the year. We look forward to finalizing those in September.

Stewardship Committee

“What If?”

Dear UFWC Members and Friends

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)

News from the FUNdraising Committee

To those who have volunteered, donated food and items, and made purchases at UFWC 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

Leadership Development Team (LDT)

Greetings from Leadership Development Team, We are excited to welcome 2 new members to our committee; Pat McDaniels and Anne Wilson. Pat and Anne will serve a 3 year term. Welcome back to committee members; Joanne Downs (Secretary), Erin Palmer (Chairperson), Inez Bird, and Mike Peterson.

The Leadership Development Team meets the second Sunday of the month at 11:30 am. First meeting of the 2024-2025 year will be Sunday September 8th.

Questions regarding the LDT contact Erin Palmer. (330)465-7043 or ebbosley@hotmail.com

mUUSIC Program News!

mUUSIC Activities:

Guitar Group: Mondays, 5:45 pm

Choir: Wednesdays, 7 pm

Folk Orchestra: Mondays, 7 pm

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

UU Ukuleles: 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 September, we will share the plate with People to People.**



People to People is a non-profit ministry that helps Wayne County residents who are facing an immediate crises. This includes housing, financial assistance, food pantry, clothing, and much more.

[Learn more at: https://www.ptpm.net/](https://www.ptpm.net/)

How do you share the plate?

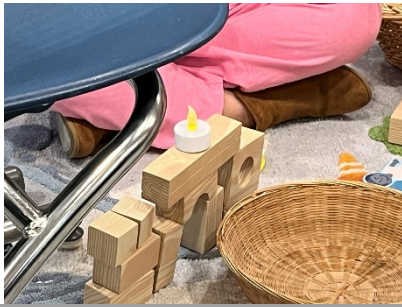
- If you write checks, please communicate your intention on the memo line, eg: 'share the plate'.
- [If you use Paypal, in the optional section, choose 'share the plate'.](#)
- If you use Paypal Giving Fund, you will have to email Joanna to designate your contribution. [fellowship@uufwc.org].

Family Ministry

We would like to welcome our new Director of Religious Education (DRE), Kelly Chandler.

Kelly joined the UUFWC in 2006, looking for a community of like-minded people and a place for her children to grow and develop their personal values and spirituality. During her time here as a congregant, Kelly has served on several committees (membership, religious education, and leadership development) as well as serving on the Board of Directors. She has been a volunteer RE facilitator in various classrooms over the years and is a trained Our Whole Lives facilitator. Kelly has an M.A. in Recreation Therapy and has experience providing therapeutic programming for people with disabilities of all ages. She has spent the past fifteen years as a Montessori educator (ages 3-6 and 6-9). In her role as DRE, Kelly strives to provide a welcoming, inclusive, and engaging environment for children and youth to form their UU faith, explore and act on our shared values, and build a loving and safe community to worship, question, and learn.

Kelly lives in Orrville with her husband, Nate, and a cornucopia of rescued dogs, cats, and farm animals. She loves gardening, hiking, community theater, and spending time with her three young adult children.



Children are always welcome in our worship services, and we have a wiggly 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)



Many thanks to our '24 - '25 Board of Directors for their interest in serving as leaders of our congregation. They ALL welcome conversation with you!

NEW!

We are gathering ideas on holding an **ART DISPLAY ROTATION** with products from the many talented artist and craftspeople in our congregation.

Please share any ideas you have for this new effort with Steve Thomas. His contact information can be found in our directory - and every congregant should have access to our UUFWC online directory. If not, please contact Karen.uufwc@gmail.com



POTLUCK EVENT



**Every Second Sunday
of the Month!!**

- Come join us for a **post-service** potluck brunch and fellowship time.
- All ages welcome.
- Bring a dish to share (no nuts, please) and your own table service (plates, silverware)

More Info:
Anyone from the Membership Committee or
Karen.uufwc@gmail.com

First monthly potluck

to be held 9/8/24.

Vegan Potluck

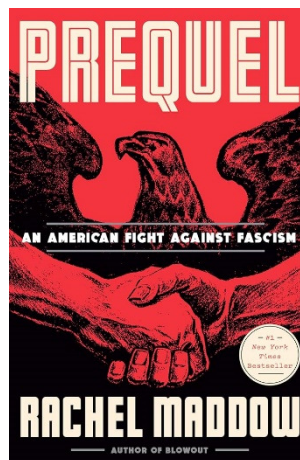
Submitted by Karen Armstrong



Join us on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:15 for lively conversation and good food. The next date is **September 24th**. 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 bookgroup 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.



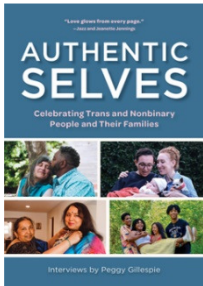
Library News

Submitted by Kay Bowen, UUFWC Librarian

New to our library, the title discussed below is the September 2024 selection of the Justice and Spirit: Unitarian Universalist Book Club. The descriptive quote is from the website of inSpirit:

The UUA Book and Gift Shop.

AUTHENTIC SELVES: CELEBRATING TRANS AND NONBINARY PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES Interviews by Peggy Gillespie 306.76 Gill 2023



“So often trans and nonbinary people’s stories are told only through the lens of their struggles and challenges, including their political battles for legal rights, but trans and nonbinary people live rich and fulfilling lives full of joy and community too.

Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary Families is a sweeping compilation of life stories and portraits of trans and nonbinary people, as well as their partners, parents, children, siblings, and chosen family members.

The compelling stories in Authentic Selves provide a glimpse into the real lives, both the challenges and the triumphs, of these remarkable people and their families – people like Senator Sarah McBride, disability justice advocate Parker Glick, drag entertainer TAYLOR ALXNDR, September 11 th first responder Jozepi Angelo Morelli, model Lana Patel, youth activist Elliot Bertrand, and so many others – all of whom are working to create a more just, diverse, and compassionate world.”

UUFWC Social Action Committee (SAC)

Submitted by Peg Redinbaugh

One of the time-sensitive ideas that was suggested is finding ways to support local school students, teachers and schools. I’m wondering now about whether we could find some longer-term approaches to supporting kids. One thing I tripped across (but don’t know much about) is the possibility of supporting an individual classroom (or 2) for the year. I have no idea of how we might approach that, but hope that one of you can give some information and help get this rolling. We’re happy to hear more details on any of the broad ideas that were raised – please discuss your ideas with me or someone else on the Social Action Committee. Catch us after the service or come to our meeting on September 19.

The Social Action Committee is partnering with the Wooster Interfaith Justice Climate Change Group to determine if there is enough interest to bring a commercial food waste composting service to Wooster. To that end, we are asking UUs to complete a brief survey. Paper copies will be available after the service on

September 8th, 15th and 22st. Stop by the table in the lobby to fill one out. Forms will also be available on the google group. Alternatively, use the QR code here to link to the form.



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

WANT TO LOWER YOUR HOME ENERGY COSTS? Hear New Leaf Design Ltd. Architect and LEED Green Associate Hallie Bowie talk about *Moving to Clean Energy and How the Inflation Reduction Act Can Help* on Thursday, October 3 at 6:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship sponsored by the Wooster Interfaith Justice Committee Climate Change Group and the Wayne County Sustainable Energy Network. The Inflation Reduction Act will make it more affordable for Ohio families to purchase energy efficient appliances, make repairs around their home and save money on their utility bills. Learn about rebates to install new electric appliances and make home repairs and improvements to increase energy efficiency for low and moderate income households. Learn about tax credits to install solar panels and battery storage systems, make home improvements or upgrade heating and cooling equipment with no income limits. This is an opportunity to discover how the Inflation Reduction Act can benefit you and your family.

FOOD WASTE COMPOSTING SURVEY The newly formed citizens' committee to explore the feasibility of bringing commercial food waste composting collection to the Wooster area is developing a survey to determine if there is enough community interest to establish such a program. It will be coming soon to the UUFWC.

REIMAGINING THE AMERICAN LAWN According to Cornell University, annually in the United States, \$750 million is spent on grass seed, 100 million tons of fertilizer are used, 80 million pounds of pesticides are used and 40 hours are spent on average mowing of a home lawn. 25% to 40% of landfill space is taken up by grass clippings from mowed lawns, and per hour of operation, small gas-powered engines used for lawn care emit more hydrocarbon than a typical automobile. Different ways to manage large grassy areas are needed. Compared with traditional turf grass lawns, "native lawns" require no fertilizer, which uses energy and emits a significant amount of greenhouse gas during its production, require no pesticides, provide a diversity of native plants that support increased biodiversity for pollinators and other invertebrates, require minimal mowing and minimal to no watering.

Since 2009, the Cornell University Botanical Gardens has conducted a project called the Native Lawn. Composed of low growing native grasses and wild flowers, the goals were to create a lawn that tolerates a moderate amount of walking on, requires minimal watering, needs no fertilizer or pesticide use and does not require constant hand weeding. In addition, the site has attracted native insects, both pollinators and other invertebrates. It was found that once established, in a year or two the lawn needs only two or three hours of care per year. The grasses used are naturally low

growing, but at 6 to 8 inches, the blades of a traditional lawnmower can't be set that high however, an electric string trimmer can be used.

The study is now in its second phase with the hope that a native seed mix can be developed, tailored to different geographic regions, which will be available at local garden centers. Needed also will be education for homeowners and their communities to appreciate the beauty of a native lawn with its low grasses, wildflowers and biological diversity. *Sources: National Wildlife, Cornell Botanical Gardens Natural Area.*

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/](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 beginning on September 15.

On **September 15** Jeff Stewart will share a presentation about Immigration Issues 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.

"Humanism is a rational philosophy informed by science, guided by reason, inspired by art, and motivated by compassion. Affirming the dignity of each human being, it supports liberty and opportunity consonant with social and planetary responsibility. Humanism derives the goals of life

from human need and interest rather than from theological or ideological abstractions, and asserts that humanity must take responsibility for its own destiny. " --The American Humanist Association

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, September 10th, 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, September 18 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:

Janice Baxstrom, Joe Churpek, Dawn Frank, Emma Gochnauer, Raven Gochnauer, Vic McCarty, Cameron Moore, Cris Sullens

Wish a Happy Anniversary to:

Sherri & Jeff Gochnauer, Emily Riddle & Andrew Noble

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.*



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