



UUFWC NEWSLETTER: OCTOBER 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.

October 06 - "What is Lay Pastoral Care?" Cherrill Wertz and Steve Berg

Cherrill Wertz and Steve Berg from the lay pastoral care team lead a service that talks about the importance of lay pastoral care to community and the power of listening.

October 13 - "The Spirit of Atonement" Rev. Walter Clark, Minister

October 11th and 12th are Yom Kippur this year, the Hebrew Day of Atonement. It is the holiest day of the year for the Jewish faith. Why is atonement so important and what can we learn from it?

October 20- "More than the signs in our yard" Rev. Walter Clark, Minister

The presidential election is almost here and the polarization in politics seems to only be getting stronger. How do we handle this division among ourselves while maintaining our dignity and integrity?

October 27 - "Scary Stories" Rev. Walter Clark, Minister and Sharon Delgadillo

The Halloween season is the time for scary stories. Why do we love them so much? Even as children, we often delight in the wicked witch and Rumpelstiltskin. In this exploratory service, we delve into the lessons of scary stories.

Minister's Meditations

The election is almost here. I can tell by the frequency of political ads while watching re-runs of *The Newsroom*, the numbers of signs in people's yards around town and the slight uptick in anxiety in the air. Politics has become polarized, vitriolic and occasionally violent, so it makes sense that a major election would create this tension. We are nervous about what will happen no matter who wins the white house because we do not know how the losing side will react on November 6th.

We have lost the ability to disagree in a civil and respectful way.

I want to be clear that there are *some* times where we cannot be civil. When rights are trampled, denied or removed from someone, that is no time to be complacent. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. made that clear in his *Letter from Birmingham Jail*. To fight against systems of oppression is an integral part of justice work and living into Unitarian Universalist values. At the same time, getting into a shouting match with our neighbor is probably not going to advance the cause of justice. Our energy would probably be better used to work with the communities in need and ask what they need of us.

Yet, it is so easy to let the shouting just happen.

The theme for the month of October is Deep Listening and I am sure that it was an intentional choice to have it right before the election. There are going to be a lot of difficult conversations between people who agree on many things but disagree politically. For the last ten years people have been wondering, "how do I talk to my friend who I strongly disagree with politically?" I have an idea, but it only works if you genuinely mean "how do I keep the relationship?" and not "how do I change their mind?". The simple answer is to just listen.

Deep listening is the act of listening to understand. One of the best ways to know if you are truly listening deeply is to ask yourself if you are waiting for your turn to say something during a conversation or not. If you find you are thinking about how the conversation relates back to you or reminds you of something else, you probably not listening deeply. That's okay. Not every conversation requires deep listening. Casual conversation is important and serves a role. When it comes to deeply polarizing and difficult conversations, we need to seek to understand the other side. Ask questions where we honestly don't know how the other will respond and avoid leading questions. Ask from a place of open curiosity and without judgement. You'll find that most folks will respond well, and you may get a better understanding of why they think what they do. Questions like, "what makes you feel that way?" "why is this important to you?" "what do you want me to understand?"

Deep listening is the first step in building trust in a relationship and it may mean that we don't always get a chance to bring up our perspective in the conversation. We may not even get the chance to talk about our perspective when we are doing deep listening work. The hope is that we will build up enough trust in the relationship that they will begin to ask us questions to understand our points of view. It may never happen, but it is more likely to happen if we listen well.

Lastly, deep listening doesn't mean agreeing. There are some situations where no amount of open

curiosity is going to salvage a relationship or get to any level of understanding. Sometimes the issue is so divisive or entrenched that the best we can do is walk away. But if we are ever going to be able to disagree with each other in a constructive way, we need to listen first.

Stewardship Committee

“What If?”

Dear UUFWC 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

SAVE THE DATE :

2nd Annual UUFWC Cookie Walk and Bake Sale, Saturday December 14th, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Donations of baked goods will be accepted Friday December 13th, 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Sign-Up sheets will be available in November. Additional details to follow. For more information contact Barb Tytula or Erin Palmer.

New this year to the Cookie Walk...

UUFWC members and friends are invited to showcase their crafts and artwork for display and sale during the cookie walk. For more details and to reserve a spot contact Barb Tytula.

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

Safety Committee

Are you and your loved ones ready for an emergency? Does everyone know what they should do if disaster strikes?

Steve Gast from the American Red Cross will present a "Be Red Cross Ready" program on Saturday, Nov 16 from 10-11 am in Strawn Hall.

Topics covered will include Making a disaster kit, making a personal plan and family plan, and learning about other resources. There will be ample Q and A time as well. Adam Keating will also review how to use our AED after the presentation. Hope to see you there.

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!

Should we bring this back? We'd like your opinion! Please use this link to respond: [Coffeehouse Survey](#)

UUFWC Coffee House

An Evening of Music, Poetry, Comedy and Storytelling

Saturday, ??

7:00 – 10:00 pm.

at The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County

3186 Burbank Rd. Wooster, OH

Serving up fine entertainment And a variety of coffees and teas For a donation at the door. Fresh desserts for sale too!



Thank you! The Muusic Committee: Jim Bird, Barb Moore, Barbara Wilson, Jonathan McKenna, Gene Barnes, Linda Michel, Sue Kandel (Accompanist), and Sharon Delgadillo (Music Director)

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 Ukles: 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 October, we will share the plate with Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc.**



Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc. (PPFA) works to protect and expand access to sexual and reproductive health care and education, and provides support to its member affiliates. (From the website)

Learn more at: <https://www.plannedparenthood.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].

Family Ministry

It has been an exciting start to the Religious Education/Exploration year! Thank you to the congregation for the warm welcome and support that I have received while learning the ropes of my role as DRE. I am especially grateful for our nursery caregivers, RE facilitators, and Youth facilitators. It has been wonderful seeing so many familiar faces as well as meeting new folks, and I look forward to getting to know families better.

RE kicked off on September 15th with a Backpack Blessing for students and educators. We had a fun time getting to know one another in a large group setting with games and sharing. We had such a great turnout that we decided to move ahead with grade-level classes this fall, which we began on September 22nd. Youth group has been working on getting to know each other better and doing

some visioning for what they would like their year to include. Youth parents, please check your email or our UUFWC Family Ministry page to RSVP for two youth outings planned in October (A pumpkin carving party at my (Kelly's) mini-farm and a Fall Fun Day at Ramseyer Farms.)

Our newly hired nursery caregiver, Tammy Parr, will begin working in the nursery on October 6th. Tammy lives in Rittman and comes to us with experience working at the Christian Children's Home and has an Early Childhood Education background. She is the mom of two young adults and a lovely person I've had the pleasure to volunteer with in the past. Please give her a warm welcome!

How can you help our RE program?

- Volunteer 8-10x a year as a nursery caregiver or RE facilitator. We need 2-3 more volunteers to keep things running smoothly and to ensure that our volunteers get worship time as well.
- Be an RE task helper! Prefer behind-the-scenes work? Let Kelly know that you are willing to help with behind the scenes tasks and projects.

Thank you, caregivers, for sharing your children with us! Thank you, congregants, for supporting our RE program!

Gratefully,
Kelly Chandler, DRE



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 Kelly 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)



Our staff photo board is complete once again. It's so nice to have Sue Kandel back at the piano and Kelly Chandler serving as our Director of Religious Exploration.



Every Fourth Sunday of the Month!! in the Large Group Room

- Come join us for a **post-service** potluck brunch and fellowship time.
- You can drop off your dish in the Large Group Room before the service if you'd like.
- 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

Please note that we've changed to the 4th Sunday of the month starting on October 27th and we'll gather in the Large Group Room.

****Annual UFWC Bowling****

We're still working on this favorite annual event as Triway Lanes has new owners and significantly higher prices (similar to Wayne Lanes).

But, pencil in Sunday, November 3 from 6-8pm on your calendars.

UFWC
Campfire Time!
and
Pumpkin Decorating

Saturday
October
19th
6:45 pm
(Sunset time! Come earlier if you'd like.)

Feel the Warmth of your UFWC Community

We'll set up at the west end of our parking lot

- Please bring your own yard games, beverages, snacks, and campchair
- Instruments welcome
- Cancelled if raining

The Membership Committee will supply S'More makings, pumpkins, and art supplies!

For more information Contact
Karen.uufwc@gmail.com



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 **October 22nd**. 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

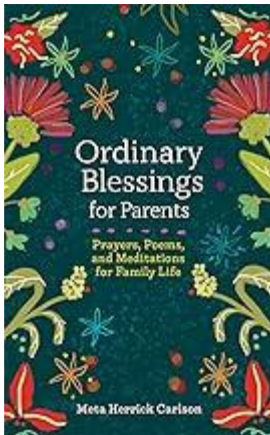
The next meeting of the Sunday night book group will be on October 20th. The October book is *The Deluge* by Stephen Markley. We will meet at 7:00 in the Library. Coming in November *The Heat Will Kill You First* by Mark Goodell. For any questions contact Bert. bishop.eleven@gmail.com

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.

ORDINARY BLESSINGS FOR PARENTS: PRAYERS, POEMS, AND MEDITATIONS FOR FAMILY LIFE By Meta Herrick Carlson 242.645 Carl 2022



“Ordinary Blessings for Parents is a spirited high-five for parents in every stage of raising kids. Gifted poet, empathetic pastor, and mom of three[,] Meta Herrick Carlson names the moments we take for granted or that make us second-guess ourselves. Her blessings call out the simple struggles that remind us we are in good company and that we are loved in the midst of loving children. The book includes blessings for washing bottles, for belly laughs, for the death of a beloved adult, and for the legacy we want to pass on. If you’re a parent or caregiver, you are bound to find a word you didn’t know you needed and to pass a blessing or two on in solidarity with other families in your life”

Quotation from the book’s back cover

UUFWC Social Action Committee (SAC)

Submitted by Peg Redinbaugh

At our September meeting we discussed some upcoming events at the UUFWC and our community:

Thursday, October 3 at 6:30 at the UUFWC – Hallie Bowie, a Green Architect, will be at the UUFWC to help us understand accessing rebates for new appliances, home repairs and improvements for low and moderate income households as well as tax credits for solar panels, solar battery storage systems, home improvements and heating and cooling equipment upgrades for all. Betty Schuler, Jay Klemme or Anne Wilson can tell you more about Hallie and the program

Saturday, October 19 from 9:30 to 2:30 – Westminster at College of Wooster will have a workshop on Humanizing Immigration. Merry Gentry can help with questions on this. She can also tell you about a cool program that a church in Millersburg for helping new immigrants integrate into the community.

We also discussed a new facility in Wooster that will provide laundry and computer facilities as well as mid-day meals to unhoused folks. Jay Klemme or Peg Redinbaugh can provide a few details. If you know more about it, Peg would love to hear from you.

October 27th – We are inviting all fellowship members to join us for a brainstorming session after the service on October 27th. Details and a reminder will be forthcoming Sept 20. We'll have a way to include those of you who join us online. Peg Redinbaugh or Rev. Walter will eventually be able answer your questions.

Our next meeting will be 7 PM October 17th (3rd Thursday) at the Fellowship. We try hard to limit our meetings to ≤ 1 h 15 min I'll send a reminder in October via googlegroups.



Rally for Peace – Stop the War on Gaza

Last week, 40 College of Wooster, UU's and community members protested on the Square in Wooster. Speakers included Rev. Walter Clark, Ruth Sewell, and Ian Burns.

All Things Green

Submitted by Betty Schuler

CAN SOLAR ARRAYS AND FARMING CO-EXIST? Farmers are interested in leasing land for solar arrays for a variety of reasons: to diversify income, to maximize income and to keep farms operating amid pressure from housing developers. Ohio State University researchers are using a U.S. Department of Energy grant to determine if agrivoltaics is feasible on large scale solar projects using the 1900 acre Madison Fields project in Madison County, Ohio, one of North America's largest test grounds. A big issue is what crops can work well for large-scale utility projects. There is much discussion about produce and specialty crops, but these are not feasible for 1,000 acre spreads. Although raising hay and alfalfa on small test plots has worked, this project will examine if similar

results can be achieved at a large scale. Other research will test how well plants do in sun versus shade because some portion of the land among solar panels will always be shaded. Complementary grazing where sheep are introduced will be explored as there is a need for vegetation control under and around panels and other infrastructure. Studies will test the health of the sheep and find the optimal grazing rates per acre. A third area of research will focus on farm equipment. Tractors and other farm vehicles need to fit between the rows with their attachments. The trend has been toward wider equipment which can cover more ground quickly but may not fit between rows of solar panels. The equipment also needs to turn around at the end of one alley of solar panels to go down the next, so there has to be an adequate turning radius without cables, poles, stands or other equipment blocking the path. Among other factors to be researched are the infrastructure needed to bale and store crops and house and fence sheep, business models and contractual arrangements. A positive outcome would provide three commodities from the acres: solar energy, a saleable crop and sheep which can produce meat, milk and fiber.

CONTROVERSY OVER SOLAR ARRAYS Meanwhile, in Knox County, Ohio Frazier Solar, a proposed 120 megawatt, 840 acre project with a sheep grazing component is seeking approval through the Ohio Power Siting Board. Two groups have formed to try to stop the permitting of the project. At the first public hearing for the project in April, 2024, 140 people registered to give testimony before the OPSB. The public comment went on so long that two additional hearings had to be scheduled to accommodate all the speakers, something that had never happened before. Those opposed cited concerns about potential flooding in the solar fields, toxic chemicals in the panels, declining property values, noise from the solar inverters, potential harm to wildlife and the loss of prime farmland. Proponents of the project supported their rights as property owners, the leasing of the land instead of sale to developers (the 40 year lease gives owners a steady income) and the positive environmental impact of renewable energy and also pointed out that state laws require soil testing and other requirements to assure compliance with recent safety research. The project is still pending before the OPSB.

Source: *Farm and Dairy* 8/8/24

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!"



Wish a Happy Birthday to:

**Gene Barnes, Steve Berg, Skylar Breiner,
Brian Dykstra, Dave Cullis, Dave Drumm,
Jessica Eikleberry, Jeff Gochnauer,
Amanda Good, Jewel Harris, Susan
Heady, Rob L, Gene Meyers, Terry Wertz,
Anne Wilson**

Wish a Happy Anniversary to:

**Bonnie Groop & Gail Woosley, Georgia &
Michael Jaeb, John Waldman & Vera
Rowland**

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 will meet on the first and third Sunday of each month **at 11:30** in the Large Group Room beginning on September 15.

On **October 6** Phil Grimm will share a presentation about the Wayne County Park District (which will be on the Nov. ballot) followed by questions and discussion.

On **October 20** we will have a presentation about the Citizens Not Politicians ballot measure 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.

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, October 8th, 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 if the weather permits once more time. 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, October 16 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.

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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