



UUFWC NEWSLETTER: JANUARY 2025

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.

January 05 - "Change the Story, Change the World"

Rev. Walter Clark, Minister

Author Terry Pratchett coined the phrase, "Change the Story, Change the World." There are narratives that are told to us and narratives that we tell ourselves that often set us in our ways, but what if we flip the scripts that are handed to us?

January 12 - "Pluralism"

Rev. Walter Clark, Minister

In the summer of 2024, the UUA adopted six values centered in love as part of our bylaws and national covenant. This Sunday we go into a deep exploration of one of those values, Pluralism.

January 19- "We Will Not Be Moved"

Rev. Walter Clark, Minister

Rev. Dr. King fought for the rights of Black Americans as well as other groups pushed to the margins by those in power. As the need for justice continues to grow in our country, what lessons can we learn from King in order to build the world he dreamt about.

January 26 - "Humanist Sunday"

Janice Baxstrom and Humanist Group

Janice Baxstrom and the Humanist group lead worship as they show how Humanism can be a force of healing in the world.

Board Report

Submitted by Jo Harper

Good day members and friends!

As we move back into longer days, we find ourselves thinking about light. Specifically, we're thinking about sunlight. The UUFWC has a long history of living its environmental values, both individually and as a congregation.

Several of our members (with a special shout-out to Fred Michel) have been working to compile information about how to enhance our expansion with solar, moving the UUFWC toward net zero. We anticipate that in the coming months we will have information sessions. Following those sessions, we will call a congregational meeting where we collectively determine if this is a direction that we want to take together.

If we decide to proceed with a solar panel installation, that will result in a capital campaign. That campaign would be a different funding requirement than our annual Stewardship drive, because it would be paid out for different purposes. We had a similar situation when we ran the capital campaign for the expansion, and the congregation managed that beautifully!

Please don't hesitate to snag any member of the Board if you have questions. We look forward to discovering more in the coming weeks!

Your UUFWC Board,

Jo Harper, Laura Burch, Steve Thomas, Barb Moore, Barb Long Moore, Kaitlynn Arnholt, and James Griffith.

News from the FUNdraising Committee

Let's raise some fun and funds!

We need your imagination to create a unique **UUFWC Chalice Quilt**. Here's how it will work:

- Beginning January 5, pick up a muslin quilt square and practice paper in the foyer.
- Draw your design on the paper and then transfer it to the fabric using fabric markers, embroidery, applique, beads, or whatever!
- Take your square home to work on at your leisure or we'll have fabric markers and a table set up during the Souper Sundays* in January and February.
- Carol Noel and James Griffith will sew the squares to create a beautiful quilt that will be raffled off.
- A few more details:
 - One square per person.
 - Your finished square must be turned in by March 2.
 - Raffle tickets will be \$1 each—buy as many as you like J.

- The winner of the raffle will be announced on March 30.

* **Souper Sundays** are back on Jan 6, Feb 23, Mar 2!. Join us after the service for a \$5 mug of homemade soup and bread plus conversation. *[Replaces the potluck for these months.]*

Last but not least, THANK YOU to everyone who made this year's **Cookie Walk & Craft Sale** a success. We raised \$1704 to support the work of the UUFWC!! From bakers and artists to volunteers and shoppers, we couldn't have done it without you!

Many thanks for all your support from the FUNdraising Committee: Sammi Beery, James Griffith, Jay Klemme, Carol Noel, Erin Palmer, Barb Tytula, Cherrill Wertz, and Mary Wicks

Stewardship Committee

What is a New Year's resolution? Something that goes in one year and out the other.

Happy 2025 from the Stew Crew! It's the start of a new year and you know what that means? We're back and ready to kick off the 2025-2026 Stewardship Campaign.

This year we're going to focus on what we all treasure and love about the UUFWC. The Stew Crew is busily creating our campaign and we'll kick off in February 2025. The Finance Committee and the Board are reviewing our financial health and resources and will soon propose the general operating budget for the coming fiscal year. As we do our work, consider what you treasure and love about the UUFWC.

Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks! In the meantime, think about how you can support this gem of a fellowship that we all adore.

In Fellowship,

The Stewardship Committee - Scot Armstrong (Co-Chair), Tony Beery (Co-Chair), Connie Storck, Mike Peterson and Nancy Hurt.

If anyone is interested in joining the Stew Crew, please reach out to stewardship@uufwc.org





Safety Committee

Submitted by Adam Keating

From the Safety committee: We had an enthusiastic group attend the "Be Red Cross Ready" presentation on Nov 16th. For those unable to attend you can find more information about personal disaster preparedness at <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/make-a-plan.html>

mUUSIC Program News!

The Music Committee hopes you enjoyed the holiday music during services and at the Cookie Walk. If you were inspired and lifted up by the choir, the Folk Orchestra, and individuals who played or sang, consider joining us! Whatever your level of experience or skill, there is a place for you in the music program. Look for some upcoming informal monthly events for singing, drumming and other musical fun for everyone!



mUUSIC Activities:

Guitar Group: Wednesday, 5:30 pm

Choir: Wednesdays, 7 pm

Folk Orchestra: Mondays, 7 pm

'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 January, we will share the plate with A Whole Community.**

"A Whole Community, Inc. has a mission to create opportunities and an environment that will foster wholeness financially, relationally, physically, spiritually, and emotionally for individuals, families, and communities.

We assess the needs of communities and develop sustainable projects that will meet multiple needs all within one project."
(taken from website)



Learn more at: <https://awcinc.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

Coming of Age kicked off last week with their orientation session. The COA program is a big commitment for youth and facilitators alike, but the journey will be worth it! Special thanks to facilitators Sarah M., Miriam G., Steve B. and Jo H. for leading the youth through this process.



Take a peek in the Youth room to see the beautiful paint job they did! The walls are now "happy blue" and we are happy with the results! Next step: painting a Chalice mural.

RE children worked to prepare materials for our exploratory service, "The Snow Tree". They strung cranberries, decorated paper bags, and made ornaments for Little Bear and the other animals to bring color back to the white world. If you attended, thank you for braving the icy morning and helping us tell our story.



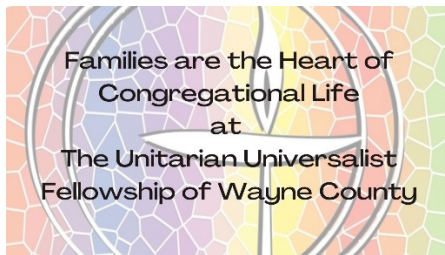
THANK YOU to all of our volunteers who keep the RE program going! It takes a village, and we have an incredible village of facilitators and caregivers who share

their time and talents each week.

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 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, Cathy Stanley, Steve Thomas, Bonnie Groop, and Karen Skubik (Membership Coordinator)*



We closed out November with a lovely **Thanksgiving** Dish-To-Share Gathering at the Fellowship. Thanks to all the organizers, cooks, set-up and clean-up crew.....and all those who came to break bread together. And an extra thanks to Nancy for hosting the event!

4th Sunday of the Month **Post-Service Potlucks** will start back up in April. The FUNdrasing Committee will take over the 4th Sundays to provide **SOUPer Sundays** during the cold winter months.

COMING SOON: **Meet and Greet**.....also known as.....**Wine, Cheese, and Conversation**. Planning is underway!!

On-Line UUFWC Directory

If you have not yet tried accessing our online directory, you can still do so at ANY time. It is constantly changing since people move, new people come along, households change, etc.

To access:

1. Go to iconcmo.com/login
2. Enter church phone number 330-262-9194.
3. Enter your assigned user name. If you can not find this in an email Karen sent earlier this year, just ask her to have it resent to you.
4. Create a password.
5. Access account.

There is also an ICON app, so you can easily view the directory on your phone.

But for those who prefer, you can also ask Karen to provide you with a paper copy. These are no longer mass produced so that we can keep them up to date - or at least only a couple months old instead of 4 years old.

Reminder: the information in our directory is private and not to be shared outside the fellowship.

Also - if you'd like a new household photo for the directory, (some of them are decades old) simply send a digital photo to Karen or ask her or anyone to take a photo of your household members.

Vegan Potluck

Submitted by Karen Armstrong

We are continuing with the Vegan Potlucks in the new year and we hope you will join us! We meet in the Fahs room on the fourth Tuesday (not the last Tuesday) of each month. You don't need to be a vegetarian or vegan to attend, all are welcome! Please bring a vegan dish to share, your own table service and drink. Please mark your calendars now with the following dates: January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22, May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28, November 25 and December 16. Please reach out to Karen with any questions at armstrongkaren93@gmail.com

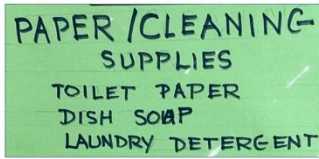


Book Group

"The Book Discussion group will meet on Sunday January 19 to Discuss *The Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula LeGuin. We meet in the Library at 7:00. If you would like any more information contact Bert Bishop, bishop.eleven@gmail.com."

UUFWC Social Action Committee (SAC)

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE FOCUS FOR THIS MONTH



BUT ALL DONATIONS ARE WONDERFUL

It's been a while since I managed to get an article into the newsletter, but here we go.

Between September and November, you have donated more than \$700 to People to People, Planned Parenthood and the Immigrant Worker Project. Thank You!!

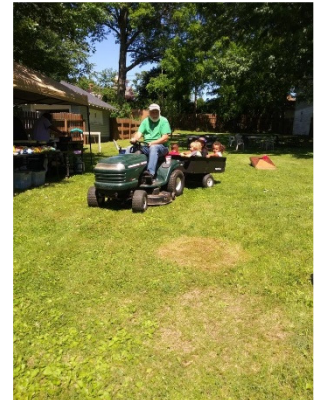
Y'all have also been sooo generous donating what looked to be a complete vanload of towels to Homeward Bound (I saw Tom and Scott loading the van). Thank you to Barb Long Moore for leading that project. The sock tree set up in the entry/coffee area is so covered with socks that they've spilled onto the floor 😊! Thanks to Janice Baxtrom and Jan Steinbrenner for setting up and publicizing the project to provide socks for unhoused folks through Homeward Bound.

We have also supported the unhoused in Wayne County by participating in The Salvation Army's annual bell ringing project at Buehler's. Thanks to the many people who contributed an hour or two. As, Bert Bishop says "many hands made light work". We thank Bert for taking care of this project and making sure we were covered for our 'shifts'. At our Dec meeting, Jay Klemme told us that day's breakfast at the UCC was all UUFWCers. Nice! Thank you to Jay and all of you.

Our collection of presents for Wooster Head Start's kids was again incredibly successful. I was tickled to see that we had more volunteers than kids. Thanks! Also, thank Nancy Hurt for all her work in getting this set up and making sure the presents got up to Community Action.

In the next weeks/months have more activities with Homeward Bound, People to People, as well as potential collaborations with the Humanists and other UUFWC groups. I'll leave it there but give you a picture of Dave Griffiths and neighborhood kids at a BBQ on Buckeye Street. Dave spoke at the last Humanist meeting – he's been working for many years to help out in Wooster's neighborhoods and he inspired me to think of a way we might help. More to come on that one and other projects.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, Jan 16, 7 PM at the UUWFC. Contact Peg Redinbaugh (pegred73@gmail.com; 330-464-3551) for more information.



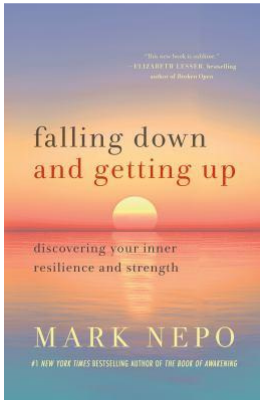
Library News

Submitted by Kay Bowen, UUFWC Librarian

The title below is new to our library. The descriptive quote is from the book's back cover.

FALLING DOWN AND GETTING UP: DISCOVERING YOUR INNER RESILIENCE AND STRENGTH

By Mark Nepo 155.24 Nepo 2023



"Every day, we must choose between surviving and thriving, managing risk and risk and enhancing it, opening ourselves and closing off. Bestselling author Mark Nepo guides readers through navigating these choices with grace and grace and fortitude while embracing the rhythm inherent in every stage of life -- life – falling down and getting up.

For anyone who has fallen down, this book offers a hand to help them stand stand and make their way. Falling Down and Getting Up explores how to enlarge your senses when pain and fear make you feel small, how to become skilled in the never-ending practice of course-correcting and tuning as you go, and how to embrace your own gifts and wisdom in meeting life."

All Things Green

Submitted by Betty Schuler

"GREENHUSHING" Corporations that once bragged about their commitments to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050 have lately been keeping quiet to avoid aggravating members of Congress and state legislatures. This is known as "greenhushing". However, companies and investors recognize the financial risks of climate change and are keeping those pledges and taking initial steps to achieve them, they are just not talking about it so much. Businesses have been experiencing a financial toll from climate change with massive wildfires, droughts, heat waves and destructive hurricanes. Extreme weather events have wiped out factories, crops, hotels, infrastructure and power plants. According to the federal government, the U.S. economy has been hit with an average of \$150 billion in annual damages due to climate change in recent years

After the 2016 election, businesses realized they could not rely on the federal government to enact policies to mitigate climate change since the new president did not believe in climate science. The private sector had to take actions to protect the economy and people from the destructive forces of climate change. Companies, investors, nongovernmental organizations, universities and every day citizens replaced federal government inaction. Investment in clean energy grew steadily. Again, in November, 2024 the three coalitions: America Is All In, the U.S. Climate Alliance and Climate Mayors, which together represent nearly two-thirds of the U.S. population and three-quarters of U.S. GDP through 24 governors, nearly 350 mayors and thousands of public and private institutions, issued the following statement regarding the future of climate action in America after Donald J. Trump was elected President:

"America's climate-leading states, cities, Tribal nations, businesses, and institutions will not waver in our commitment to confronting the climate crisis, protecting our progress, and relentlessly pressing forward.

No matter what, we'll fight for the future Americans demand and deserve, where our communities, our health, our environment, and our economy all thrive. We will not turn back."

Stay tuned.

Sources: Yale Climate Connections, November 11-15; Leaders of America Is All In, Climate Alliance and Climate Mayors on Future of Climate Action Under Trump

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.

On **January 5** we will have a presentation about Artificial Intelligence by Jim Gentry followed by questions and discussion.

On **January 19** Elisa Stoye from Ohio's Hospice Lifecare will speak to us about Hospice 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, January 14th, 12:30 pm.** All UUFWC women are welcome to join us every second Tuesday of the month. We meet in the back of the sanctuary at the big wooden table. 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!

The next meeting of EDGE (Elderhood Discussion Group Experience) will be on **Wednesday, January 15 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, 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:
Kay Bowen, Gail Carter, Casey Hoy, Jon Sprunger, Cherrill Wertz

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: Jo Harper - President, Laura Burch - Past President, Steve Thomas - Vice President, Barb Moore, Barb Long Moore, Kaitlynn Arnholt, and James Griffith. Sarah Miles - Treasurer

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: Kelly Chandler: 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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