UUFWC NEWSLETTER: FEBRUARY 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.*

February 2nd- "What Our Faith Calls Us to Do"
Rev. Walter Clark, Minister
There is a lot of anxiety recent about all of the recent changes of the current administration. How does our faith call us to answer this?

February 9th - "*A Religion that Grows With Us*"
Rev. Ali Peters, Minister (Guest Minister)
Our first introduction to religion often comes when we are children. But as we grow older, life becomes more complex. What does this mean for our understanding of religion? What it might look like for religion to grow up with us?

February 16th- "Dragons, Heroes and Treasure"
Rev. Walter Clark, Minister
Often we talk about donating our time, talent and treasure when is comes to stewardship where the word "treasure" is a euphemism for money. However, treasure is often so much more than just funding. Join us as we discuss the treasures of UUFWC.

February 23rd- "Interdependence"
Rev. Walter Clark, Minister
The second in Rev. Walter's sermon series about the six values that the UUA recently included in article II of its bylaws. What does it mean for us as a faith and as individuals?

Minister's Meditations

What does it mean to be a Unitarian Universalist in troubling times?

While many of us have different perspectives on things like "spirituality," "salvation," and "divinity," I think as UU's we can all agree that we want the world to be a better place for all who dwell in it. We see that reflected in the seven principle and the six values that come from love. We will have different ideas on how to create that world and where we need to focus our efforts, but in the end we are all striving for the same things: Equity, Justice, Compassion, Knowledge, Mercy.

So what do we do when it seems that the world at large (and our national leaders) is moving in the opposite direction?

In speaking about segregation, The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Any law that uplifts human personality is just. Any law the degrades human personality is unjust." Seeing that ICE raids have already started in Hispanic communities, that the current administration is planning sending "criminal aliens" to Guantanamo Bay, the targeting of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programs on a federal level, the administrative order that tries to define gender as strictly binary all speak to the act of degrading the humanity of others. In a very real way, we as Unitarian Universalists are facing an attack on our values, our theology and our religion. I think we all can agree that something needs to be done in order to preserve our ideals of pluralism, interdependence and equity. And like any other group of Unitarian Universalists, we all have different ideas on how that should be done.

I recently had a discussion with Peg Redinbaugh who is heading up the Social Action Committee. Like many of us, Peg wants to do *something* to help those who are being targeted. Peg wants to act locally, which is in my opinion one of the best things we can do. After all, all politics is local. Her concerns are focused around the housing crisis which is tied to economic justice, which is a large concern for Wayne County. She has some great ideas and I would recommend contacting her if you want to do something with your righteous anger.

I have had congregants ask about making UUFWC a sanctuary congregation. While I love the idea, our facilities are not currently equipped to handle a guest living with us for an extended period. That doesn't mean we can work with other congregations in the area that may be interested in providing sanctuary.

The UUA has a sort of "underground railroad" for transpersons who are looking for safe passage to state with protections for them. I am on their contact list and if someone in needs is in our area I will work to find help for them by calling a few different persons in our congregation who may be able to help them with their needs.

I am sure many of you have other ideas for things that we can do as individuals and as a congregation. I welcome them all. The only thing I ask is that you commit to the long haul. Showing up once is great. Making a one-time donation to a just cause is appreciated, but the forces of oppression have been organizing and planning for years. In order to bring about the world we wish to see, we need to have the same conviction, the same tenacity and the same passion that they have. If justice is to roll down like water, we need to trouble the water.

News from the FUNdraising Committee

A few words from FUNdraising:

We need **YOU** to help create the first ever **UUFWC Chalice Quilt!** Everyone is invited to design a square that will be sewn into a beautiful quilt, which will be raffled off. Check out the display in the foyer to learn more.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the first **Souper Sunday** on Jan 26. Missed it? We'll be back after the service on Feb 23 and Mar 23 with more homemade soup and bread. The cost is $5.

Coming soon: **UUFWC Chili Cookoff** in April. Practice your chili making skills and stay tuned for details.

Questions or ideas? Talk to a member of the FUNdraising Committee: Sammi Beery, James Griffith, Jay Klemme, Carol Noel, Erin Palmer, Barb Tytula, Cherrill Wertz, and Mary Wicks

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Stewardship Committee

Hello UUFWC from the Stew Crew (aka Stewardship Committee)

We're kicking off our pledge drive campaign in February. The theme this year is Treasure the UUFWC. The UUFWC is a great, supportive community for all of us and we need to support it in return. As you consider your pledge for the upcoming year, we invite you to think about what you treasure about this community.

How will you hear from us, and how can you submit your pledge?

Email - Please be on the lookout for an email explaining how and where to pledge.

Weekly message - We'll have a weekly message each week during services where fellow community members will share what they treasure about the UUFWC.

Stew Crew Table - We'll be hosting a table after services during the pledge drive. Please feel free to stop by, ask questions, get a treat, and you can fill out your pledge form right then and there!

Website - We'll update the UUFWC website pledge form to make it easy to pledge.

Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks!

In Fellowship,

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

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 February, we will share the plate with National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).**

NAMI provides advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives.

Learn more at: https://www.nami.org/

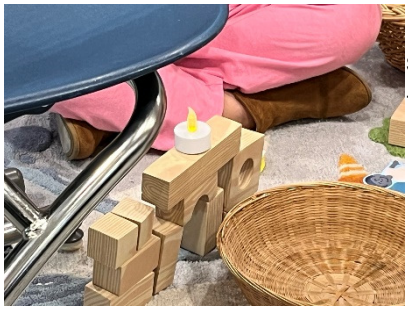
How do you share the plate?

- 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

As we enter the month of February, the month of hearts and love and kindness, it seems extra fitting that our theme for RE this month is "Living Love Through the Practice of Inclusion". We are now navigating a world that needs us to live our values more than ever. If you are like me, you may wonder how to best nurture, educate, and support our children and the children and youth in our community through this painful time in history. How blessed we are to have this community of role models for our young people. Thank you for being in this community, for nurturing your own children and others, for volunteering, for fighting for justice, for leaning into love, for sharing that love with the most vulnerable.

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)

IT'S TIME FOR OUR ANNUAL "MEET AND GREET"
PLEASE SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH, 7 pm

How this adult (over 21) event works:

- The sanctuary is set up with small tables and everyone rotates around three times to assigned seats at timed intervals.
- Talking points/questions are supplied to stimulate conversations
- We try to maximize mixing with new folks each round
- Please bring a beverage and/or snack to share with others
- Finger food like hors d'oeuvres are most appreciated.
- Let us know if you need childcare
- Sign up will be available in the lobby later in February.

Membership Introduction Class
On Saturday, February 22nd from 10am to 2pm Reverend Walter will be leading the Membership Introduction Class. This class is for people who are interested in becoming a member of the congregation and is most appropriate for those who have been participating in our congregation for a year or more. We will discuss what it means to be a member of the UUFWC in regards to theology, community and responsibility. Lunch will be provided.
Please let Karen know if you'd like to join us and if you need childcare - karen.uufwc@gmail.com

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

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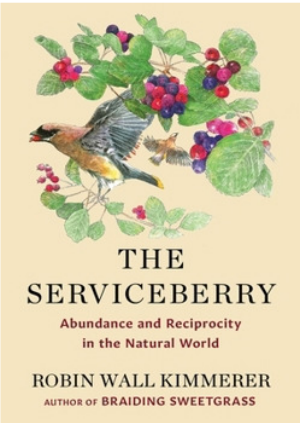
Book Group

"The Book Discussion group will meet on Sunday February 16 to Discuss *The Hidden Life of TREES*: *What They Feel, How They Communicate* by Peter Wohlleben. We meet in the Library at 7:00. If you would like any more information contact Bert Bishop, bishop.eleven@gmail.com."

Library News

Submitted by Kay Bowen, UUFWC Librarian

New to our library, the title described below is written by Robin Wall Kimmerer – the author of Braiding Sweetgrass, which we also have in our collection. The descriptive quote is from the inside front cover of the book.



THE SERVICEBERRY: ABUNDANCE AND RECIPROCITY IN THE NATURAL WORLD By Robin Wall Kimmerer 581.6 Kimm 2024

As Indigenous scientist Robin Wall Kimmerer harvests Serviceberries alongside the birds, she considers the ethic of reciprocity that lies at the heart of the gift

economy. How, she asks, can we learn from Indigenous wisdom and the plant world to reimagine what we value most? Our economy is rooted in scarcity, competition, and the hoarding of resources, and we have surrendered our values to a system that actively harms what we love. Meanwhile the Serviceberry's relationship with the natural world is an embodiment of interconnectedness and gratitude. The tree distributes its wealth – its abundance of sweet juicy berries – to meet the needs of its natural community. And this distribution ensures its own survival. As Kimmerer explains, 'Serviceberries show us another model, one based on reciprocity rather than accumulation, where wealth and security come from the quality of our relationships, not from the illusion of self-sufficiency.'

As Elizabeth Gilbert writes, Robin Wall Kimmerer is 'a great teacher, and her words are a hymn of love to the world.' The Serviceberry is an antidote to the broken relationships and misguided goals of our times and a reminder that 'Hoarding won't save us.... All flourishing is mutual.'"

All Things Green
Submitted by Betty Schuler

RENEWABLE ENERGY IN OHIO - A MIXED BAG In Ohio renewable energy development has been focused on productive cropland which would have consequences for the state's largest industry. Concern that wind and solar projects might displace agriculture has led to state and local policies that restrict where utility scale renewable energy projects can be sited. These policies have discouraged renewable energy development to the point where Ohio significantly trails most of its neighboring states in wind and solar capacity. There is a pathway however, to encourage the development of renewable energy in Ohio suggested by The Nature Conservancy's *Mining The Sun Initiative* in a way the does not harm agricultural operations using the 576,600 acres of closed mine lands and nearly 300 brownfield sites totaling over 50,000 acres all located with access to transmission lines.

State legislation has made solar development more complicated. House Bill 6 (2019) facilitates and continues the development, production and use of electricity from nuclear, coal and renewable energy resources and modifies the existing mandates for renewable energy and energy efficiency savings, the least stringent clean energy requirement of any U.S. state. Senate Bill 52 (2022) gives counties the power to review and block any project in excess of 50 megawatts. This does not affect coal and natural gas projects. In 2023 more counties passed these bans, including multiple counties without proposed large-scale solar projects. House Bill 507 (2023) requires Oho to grant lease applications for natural gas drilling on public lands and state parks and reclassifies natural gas as "green energy". House Bill 308 (2024) designates nuclear power as clean energy.

In addition, according to the Ohio Environmental Council, fossil fuel special interests have attempted to sway public opinion to oppose projects as they are presented to the Ohio Power Siting Board. In 2023 there was a marked decrease in applications for utility-scale solar development filed with the OPSB and a decrease in project approvals. At the same time, over half of Ohio's largest employers have made commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and buy renewable energy. The result is that Ohio's largest companies will have to source their renewable energy from out-of-state projects.

Meanwhile, Ohio has experienced a boom in clean energy manufacturing projects, leading to thousands of new jobs and billions in local investments. 21 new clean energy projects in Ohio have led to $8.8 billion in

investments in EV, battery and solar manufacturing projects since 2021-22, ranking Ohio as the state with the tenth-highest total of new clean energy jobs in the U.S.

Where Ohio heads in clean energy production is anyone's guess. However what we do know, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, is that in 2023 Ohio ranked 47th in the nation for the share of utility-scaled electricity generated using renewables. *Sources: Ohio Capital Journal, Ohio Citizen Action, Bricker Graydon publications, TNC Mining the Sun Initiative, Policy Matter Ohio, Ohio renewable energy law*.

Vonic Update
Submitted by David Paul

Hello Fellow UU's and Humanists. Thanks to generous members we are very close to the goal for this round of surgeries for vonic. The little girl in Uganda that Sebastiano and others have been helping get the medical care she needs. The shoulder surgery is completed and the elbow surgery is next. Again we've raised $400.00 Dollars. Of the last $500.00 we need for this go round. Sebastiano, his Wife Jetrida, Kat and I are extremely grateful and thank full for the help for Vonic.

We are still less by (500$) on the medical bills. Our gofundme page is still open managed by sister Donate to Vonics Burns Surgeries, organized by Ashlee Ferret. This link is through Australia.

Any questions can be directed to David Paul at davidpaul63@yahoo.com

If folks are comfortable with it, I can send money to Sebastiano through Western Union and would be happy to do so. Simply share your donation with me.

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.

- **February 2** We will have a presentation about Autism by Dr. Kailey Bradley PhD, licensed counselor, followed by questions and discussion.
- **February 16** TBA

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

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Women's Lunch Group, We next meet **Tuesday, February 11th, 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, February 19 at 5:30 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Steve Thomas for more information

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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:

Norma Barber, Deb Barnes, Jack Baxstrom, Emmy Chandler, Emily Curie, Juan Gross, Tyler Keating, Peg Redinbaugh, Lee Simpson, Elaine Strawn

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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