UUFWC NEWSLETTER: MARCH 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.*

March 2nd- "Generosity"
Rev. Walter Clark, Minister
Part three in his sermon series about the six UU values, Rev. Walter talks about the value of generosity; not just with our resources, but with our spirit.

March 9th - "*Trust in Times of Uncertainty*"
Rev. Walter Clark, Minister
It often seems like the world is a whirlwind, blowing us in different directions and causing us to lose our footing. How do we find stability in these times and trust that all will work out in the end?

March 16th- "Transformation"
Rev. Walter Clark, Minister
Part four in his sermon series about the six UU values, Rev. Walter talks about the value of transformation and the willingness to always be open to new ways of being, even when they aren't comfortable.

March 23rd- "Spring Equinox"
Rev. Walter Clark, Minister
Rev. Walter and music director Sharon Delgadillo explore the spring equinox and the gifts we receive as we enter into a time of renewal.

March 30th- "TBA"
Gail Woosley, Commissioned Lay Minister
TBA

Minister's Meditations

The Power of the Purse

One of the greatest forms of resistance is the power of the purse. Perhaps you participated in the economic boycott yesterday (Feb 28th) asking folks not to spend money at Target, Wal-Mart, Amazon and any fast food or gasoline (instead buy local and ask your local retailer if they support DEI initiatives). Maybe you are planning in participating in the Amazon boycott from March 7th-14th or the Nestle boycott from March 21st – 28th. The reasoning for this action is to show those in power that it is the consumers who hold the power and that the people demand better treatment. We want to use our power to uphold our values.

While it is good to deny funding organizations that do not support your values, are you investing your money in places that do uphold your values? Organizations like NPR and other fourth estate groups that do quality journalism need backing. Non-profits like 180 and Homeward Bound that serve marginalized populations that are being directly affected by the government's actions will need a little extra love. These are groups that work to live our UU values into the world. Backing them is growing our faith.

Then there is our congregation. We strive to be a place where people in Wayne county can gather to find the strength to go out into the community and live those values. It takes a lot of resources for us to just exist as a congregation. Our current budget allows us to pay staff, maintain our building and programming and that is about it. We have enough to survive, for now, and like many others UUFWC is facing some financial increases over the next year. Our insurance rates are going up substantially and we are hoping to add a ten hour a week position of a sexton/maintenance person to help tend to our building. We are looking at a larger budget for next year in order to just maintain what we are doing.

However, I think we need to thrive and not just survive. We need to invest in our values and invest directly in our community. Financially, the best way to do this would be for everyone to increase their pledge by 5% annually. I understand that not everyone is able to do this, but I would encourage as many folks as possible to get as close to that as possible and if you can do a little more I ask that you do. You can make your pledge here. I'll even sweeten the pot. I not only promise to do the same myself, but if you increase your pledge by 5% or more, I will personally make you a chalice of coffee mug. Let me know that you have done so and we'll talk about what colors, shape and/or theme you would like. (It may take a few months to get it to you, but I will get it to you).

We need to support our values in any way we can right now. It how we make the world a better place for all.

Board Report

Happy almost-spring, Members & Friends!

In addition to the normal Board tasks like policy creation and review, budget review, and future planning, we've been participating in a UU Institute training for Boards. The module that we consumed before our February meeting was on Spiritual Grounding for board members. We all

really appreciated a takeaway from one of the lessons that was (paraphrased): "You can be in conflict and still be in covenant." So often as humans (and especially as Midwestern humans, maybe?) we shy away from conflict, and assume that if there is some, it means that one or more participants are doing something "wrong." Conflict doesn't feel good, but it means that all involved care enough to continue trying for the relationship instead of simply leaving. Conflict can be something that makes us stronger and contributes to our health.

As a congregation we've had a lot of change in the past 10 years! That has to come with conflict as we work together to figure out the best ways to continue for the fellowship. I'm glad that we get to be in conflict and in covenant (at the same time!) with you. I'm glad that we're all here, living our values together.

You're always welcome to join us at a Board meeting! Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 11, at 7:00pm. We also have a Zoom link if you're interested but don't want to leave your cozy home or drive in the dark. Don't forget that meeting minutes for the previous month are posted outside of the office.

Jo Harper, on behalf of the Board: Laura Burch (Past President), Jo Harper (President), Steve Thomas (Vice President), Barb Long Moore, Barb Moore, Kaitlynn Arnholt, James Griffith; and members: Rev. Walter Clark, Sarah Miles (Treasurer)

FUNdraising in the News:

Thank you to everyone who created a square for the **UUFWC Chalice Quilt** – they are BEAUTIFUL! Raffle tickets to win the quilt will be sold ($1 each) after Sunday services, and the winning ticket will be drawn March 30. The winner has the option to take it home for their enjoyment or donate it to the UUFWC.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for soup and conversation on Jan.25 and Feb. 23. The last **Souper Sunday** of 2025 will be after the service on Mar 23. Join us for homemade soup and bread. The cost is $5.

Stay tuned:

- The **Chili Cookoff** has been postponed until the fall. Watch for the date and details.
- The **Yard Sale** will be held in **2026**. This new every other year schedule will give you more time to clean out your stashes J.

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

We TREASURE the UUFWC!

With the budget provided to us, we began the Stewardship Campaign of raising funds for the fiscal new year. As with everything, the amount needed has risen.

However, we are off to a great start. On behalf of Stew Crew, we say Thank You. Thank you for pledging and those that could, pledge more.

If you have not yet, please do so. You may either pledge online or after service on Sundays until March 23rd. There is a table in the lobby.

Hang in there, Spring is almost here.

In community and love,

Nancy Hurt

Stewardship Committee including Tony Beery (co-chair), Scot Armstrong (co-chair), Connie Storck and Mike Peterson

We'd welcome another member or two to our committee should you be so inclined!

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

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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 March, we will share the plate with Viola Startzman Clinic.**

The Viola Startzman Clinic is committed to providing compassionate Medical, Dental, Behavioral, and Specialty Care as well as resources for daily needs like food, transportation, housing assistance and more.

Learn more at: https://www.startzmanclinic.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

We are moving into March with a new theme of study: The Practice of Trust. Children will be examining what it means to trust oneself, to trust in others, how to repair trust that has been broken, and trusting our inherent worth and dignity.

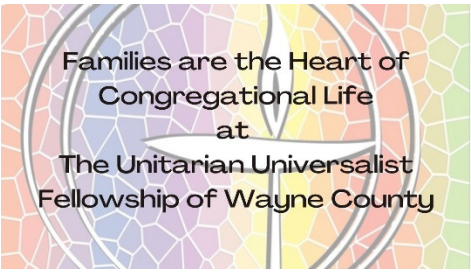
Please take a walk down the RE wing and say hello to Ruuby our UU Dragon who has decided to be a kinder, gentler dragon and SHARE the treasure rather than hoard it! If you haven't done so you, or if you'd like to add another, please write something you treasure about the UUFWC and add it to our treasure wall!

Some important dates in March to note:

- March 2, 12:00 - 2:00: Coming of Age Adventure Day - Painting class with Kristin Lorson (in the FAHS room.)
- March 8, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.: Our Whole Lives 5th - 6th grade mandatory parents meeting (let Kelly know asap if you cannot attend so we can plan a second meeting as it is required.)
- March 9, 11:30 - 12:30: Family, Fun, and Fellowship Brainstorming group! Interested in there being more family-centered events at the UUFWC? Me too! Let's get some ideas going to plan for the year to come. This is open to anyone in the congregation who wants to help.

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.

Wish a Happy Birthday to:

Betty Schuler, Betsy Sheets, Nancy Hurt, Lindsay Walker, Denise Bostdorff, Violet Stormer-Burch, Danielle Sobczyk, Susan English

Membership (and Fun Stuff) News

Committee: Laura Grimm (chair), Kaitlynn Arnholt (secretary), Barb Tytula, Cathy Stanley, Steve Thomas, Bonnie Groop, Rick Storck (our newest member) 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.
- Sign up will be available in the lobby later in February.
- Please include ages of your children on the sign up sheet if you chose to use our childcare

New Members

On February 22nd we offered an in-depth Membership Class and gave the attendees the option to sign our Membership Book. This month we will highlight one of those folks, and hope you will welcome her to membership at our congregation.

Doris Bowman is a Wooster native and a Navy brat. Some of her interests are reading, touring old homes, spending time outdoors and baking bread in her bread machine. She shares her home with two and four legged family members. She is happy to now be a member of this loving community. Lately Doris has been working on Sundays, so be on the lookout for her outside of Sunday services.

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

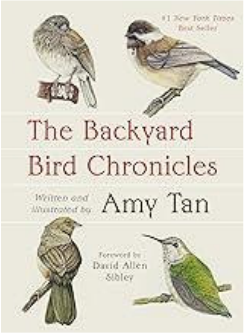
On Sunday March 16 the Evening Book group will discuss My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante. We gather in the Library at 7:00. In April we will discuss Beyond God the Father by Mary Daly on the 13 th. Notice the date change. If you have any questions contact Bert at bishop.eleven@gmail.com.

Library News

Submitted by Kay Bowen, UUFWC Librarian

The title below is new to our library. The descriptive quote below is from the book's front inside flap.

THE BACKYARD BIRD CHRONICLES By Amy Tan 813.54 Tan 2024



"Tracking the natural beauty that surrounds us, The Backyard Bird Chronicles maps the passage of time through daily entries, thoughtful questions, and beautiful original sketches. With boundless charm and wit, author Amy Tan charts her foray into birding and the natural wonders of the world.

In 2016, Amy Tan grew overwhelmed by the state of the world: Hatred and misinformation had become a daily presence on social media, and the country more divided than ever. In search of peace, Tan turned to the natural world just beyond her window and, specifically, to the birds visiting her yard. But what began as an attempt to find solace turned into something far greater – an opportunity to savor quiet moments during a volatile time, connect to nature in a meaningful way, and imagine the intricate lives of the birds she admired."

All Things Green
Submitted by Betty Schuler

OUR PETS AND CLIMATE CHANGE In 2024 the U.S. experienced wildfires, heat waves, blizzards, extreme cold, air pollution, destructive hurricanes. Our pets are affected by these changes as we are, but they are dependent on us to protect them during extreme weather events and climate-related natural disasters. Planning ahead can help protect them as we encounter these changes.

Here are some steps you can take:

Extreme heat: Just like humans, pets can suffer from heat stress. Unlike humans, pets are more quickly impacted by dehydration, heat exhaustion and heat stroke due to their limited body temperature regulation. If you feel hot, your pets probably feel hotter. Provide them with cool shade, water to drink and if needed, cold compresses. If the pavement feels hot to your hand, even a short walk can blister or burn paw pads, and don't leave pets unattended in your car.

Air Pollution: poor air quality is harmful to all pets, with cats particularly vulnerable to asthma. Beyond smoke from wild fires, longer, warmer seasons increase pollen levels and stagnant air traps particulate matter that can enter the blood stream. In addition to lung disease, air pollution can cause cardiovascular disease. Check the Air Quality Index before undertaking outdoor activities. During poor air quality days keep pets indoors and limit exercise. Consider using indoor air purifiers.

Disease Spread: not only does climate change push tick and mosquito populations northward, it causes populations explosions in existing ranges and extends their active seasons. This means more Lyme disease and heartworm disease. Year-round prevention for parasites and other diseases is called for as well as checking your pets for ticks after being outdoors. Pet allergies are

also on the rise due to longer pollen seasons. Planning walks for times when pollen counts are lower is helpful.

Natural Disasters: the US Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that you keep a pet disaster kit ready at all times. Suggested for the kit are: harness, leash and ID tags; carriers with bedding and toys, enough food, water and appropriate medications for 2 weeks, plastic bags and cleaning supplies, key documents, including photocopied veterinary records, registration and microchip information, recent photo of your pets, and a pet first aid kit.

The Climate Reality Project (founded by Vice President Al Gore) has published an e-book entitled, *Climate Change and Your Pet: How to Keep Your Best Friend Safe and Healthy in a Warming World,* which is easily accessed online and provides helpful information.

Climate change is an animal welfare issue. Our pets rely on us. *Sources: Yale Climate Connections, The Climate Reality Project, Temple University Alumni Association*.

UUFWC Social Action Committee (SAC)
submitted by Peg Redinbaugh

In January, your Share the Plate donations to A Whole Community were $264! Way to go!

In collaboration with the Humanists, Sean Klafter, of Jewish Voices for Peace, will present Gaza is not a US Colony, followed by questions and discussion. We hope to see you there!

Our Feb 20 was snowy again, so we were both in person and by Zoom. David Griffin joined us to talk about "Wooster Defends Democracy", a new group gathering to discuss and do what we can to address anti-democratic policies coming from our current administration. Among the first things we did was to have a President's day demonstration on the Wooster's square. There were at least 80 people there, including Ian Burns (right) and a number of other UUFWC adults, youth and kids. The next meeting will be March 1st, 9:30 AM at 1st Pres for further planning. There will be another demonstration on Saturday, March 15. Peg, Merry or Ian can help you with information on joining the group.

Homeward Bound is open! Merry, Jay, Barb and Peg all toured the facility just before it opened. It's an exciting to see this new severe weather shelter in Wooster. One of the best things about the shelter is that the providers of needed services (e.g. medical care, housing, mental health) will come to help those using the shelter. After they have a couple weeks to allow the staff to understand what they need from volunteers, we'll be back with you about training and volunteering. Please let Peg or Mary if you are interested in volunteering!

This month's donations for Homeward Bound focus on warm clothes (winter hats, gloves, sweat pants, long underwear, etc.) and items for relaxing (drawing, games, etc.). For People to People, our focus will be on shelf stable foods. As always, other donations will be both accepted and valued! The donation baskets are just inside and to the right of the main entry. We move them into the foyer after services and have SAC members there to chat with you.

I don't know about you, but avoiding the seemingly unending, crazy chaos of the current newscycle is just wearying. One thing that helps keep me from doomscrolling is knitting. I knit simple easy hats that I drop in the Homeward Bound box when I finish. Go figure, a group at the UUFWC has outdone me. Jo Harper told me about Crafts & Calls. They meet do crafts, chat, snack and, importantly, make calls to our elected officials to let them know what we think. Maybe I'll try to be at the next meeting (March 7-10 at the Fellowship).

Our next SAC meeting will be 7 PM March 20 (3rd Thursday) at the Fellowship. We try hard to keep our meetings to about an hour. A reminder should come via google groups. We'd love to see you!

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 **March 2** we will have a presentation about Jewish Voices for Peace by the Social Action Committee followed by questions and discussion.
- On **March 16** Scott Myers will speak to us about Recycling 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

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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, March 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. Our simple agenda is to enjoy each other's company. We typically have a question of the day and everyone has an opportunity to answer. 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, March 19 at 5:30 PM** in the Fellowship Hall.

Contact Steve Thomas for more information

Tai Chi Update - We have a great core group that comes to our weekly Monday evening (5:30pm in the sanctuary) Tai Chi class. We would be happy to welcome others who may have an interest in Tai Chi. Please feel free to join us no matter your Tai Chi experience. We have lots of fun! Contact Connie Storck for more details

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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.

UUFWC Cares

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.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County