UUFWC NEWSLETTER: APRIL 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.*

April 6th- "Defiant Joy"
Rev. Walter Clark, Minister
We often focus on all the world's problems, our own struggles and the million tiny hurdles that make up a life. Is there time to find joy amid all of the conflict and chaos? Yes! Not only is it possible, it is necessary.

April 13th - "Finding Liberation"
Rev. Walter Clark, Minister
The Jewish festival of Passover celebrates the liberation of the Israelites from Egypt. What are the lessons of this sacred holiday that we as Unitarian Universalists can use today?

April 20th- "Rise Again"
Rev. Walter Clark, Minister
The Christian holiday of Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, signifying that the sins of humanity have been forgiven. This Sunday we examine how the message of resurrection echoes in our faith and values.

April 27th- "New Member Sunday"
Rev. Walter Clark, Minister
This Sunday we celebrate the addition of new members of our congregation and examine what it means to be in deep community with each other and the world around us.

Minister's Meditations

I want to talk a little bit about the recent issues concerning the budget and compliment the work that has been done around resolving it.

Many of you have heard by now that our most recent proposed budget is larger than expected. There are a few different reasons for this. The cost of health insurance for employees has skyrocketed, everyday expenses like office supplies and utilities is growing and we are looking to combine our bookkeeper and office administrator into one position which will require more hours for that position and a benefits package. These are the problems that arise when a congregation grows and doing so during a time of economic uncertainty makes it worse.

And yet, we rise to the challenge.

The board did great work to let the congregation know the full extent of this problem. The finance team poured over all of the data and projections and worked with the board to discuss options. The stewardship team worked with the board and finance to encourage the congregation to increase their pledging before the stewardship campaign was over.

And many of you responded by increasing your pledges. We even have an anonymous donor who is matching up to $10,000 in increased pledges (by the way anonymous donor, I increased my pledge by $465 this year.) We are in good shape to maintain ourselves.

One of the things that we as members of UUFWC do well is to come together when times are tough. I have seen this in different events over the last few months. The Crafts & Calls meeting twice a month that encourages folks to gather with their favorite hobby and call elected officials to voice their support or disapproval of different policies. The huge turn out for the meet and greet held by the membership team. Even Sunday services have experienced a bump in attendance over the last few months. We recognize the need for a community that supports each other, and we are willing to do a little bit extra to keep that vital lifeline going.

And I thank you for that.

Board Report

Hello Members and Friends,

We're looking forward to our annual meeting on April 27. Our bylaws direct that we have an annual meeting in April or May. HIstorically we've held it in May, but May contains a great many things (graduations, Mother's Day, Memorial Day) and this year the Board decided to try for April. We're looking forward to being with you and talking through our upcoming fiscal year's budget, potential bylaw updates, and policies - all of the riveting parts of our church life.

Our official Board meeting for the month of April is April 1, but we expect we'll be meeting a few other times during the month to get everything wrapped up for the annual meeting. If there's anything you'd like the Board to have on their radar, please let any of us know.

At the quick budget update meeting on Sunday, March 23, we told you that this is your budget and we value your feedback. We've gotten some great feedback already, and would love yours. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

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)

Get to Know Your Board!

Hi, I'm Barb Moore, Board Secretary, completing my 3-year term on the Board this year. I'm also on the Music Committee, play in the Folk Orchestra and attend Tai Chi class. When the weather is nice, you'll see me out walking, working in my garden at home or in the garden bed I adopted at the UUFWC. When the weather isn't so nice I might still be out walking, but more likely I'm in my cozy chair crocheting, knitting, quilting, or reading. I've learned so much being on the Board, and I appreciate more than ever all the effort the Board, Reverend Walter, the staff, the volunteers, and all the committees put in toward helping us live our values and enhance the fellowship we share.

Skip Nault Memorial Service

Please join us on June 28th, at 10:30 am, to honor the memory of Skip Nault at the UU Fellowship of Wayne County. There will be refreshments following the service.

Committee on Ministry

In February, Reverend Walter received notice of being granted his second application for Preliminary Fellowship from the UUA's Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC). This is a significant accomplishment. Please extend your congratulations to Reverend Walter the next time you see him.

Being granted a renewal of preliminary fellowship by the MFC means that Reverend Walter continues to demonstrate satisfactory progress in his proficiency of ministerial competencies. The MFC requires that a minister receive three successful renewals of preliminary fellowship before being designated as a minister in full fellowship. Once earned, full fellowship means that a minister is demonstrating a commitment to continuous improvement and learning, and has received professional accreditation in the field of ministry.

The Committee On Ministry (Sarah Miles, Adam Keating, Denise Bostdorff, Mary Wicks, and myself) continues to serve as an advisory group to the minister and will be working with Reverend Walter to complete and submit the third application for renewal in November of this year. Please feel free to contact any committee member with your questions or comments.

John Waldman

Chair, Committee On Ministry

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!

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 April, we will share the plate with Trinity UCC Breakfasts.**

The Trinity Breakfast Program serves a free hot breakfast Mon-Fri from 8:30-9:30 am. The Trinity Breakfast Program has been serving a free hot breakfast since 1995.

Learn more at: https://trinityucc.org/trinity-breakfast-program

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].

Wish a Happy Birthday to:
Jim Bird, Margaret Boyer, Jay Klemme, Tom Knepper, Alex Lowry, Linda Michel, Mady Noble, John Waldman

Wish a Happy Anniversary to:
Juan Gross and Peg Redinbaugh

Family Ministry

As the joy of Spring lifts our spirits, it is appropriate that our monthly theme for April is "The Practice of Joy"! Children in RE will explore how we find joy in our everyday life, in nature, in silliness, and even in hard times. How does our faith inform our joy? And how can our joy help strengthen our faith? May our joy continue to blossom all month long!

In March, we kicked off our 5th and 6th grade Our Whole Lives class. We are blessed to have a very full class with participants from both our congregation and the community. We are doubly blessed to have fantastic trained facilitators willing to commit to the time and care necessary to make this program successful:

Thank you Chelsea, Jon, Nancy, and Sammi! If you see a new face in the building on Sundays between Noon and 1:30, it is probably an OWL parent. Thank you for making them feel welcome and at home in our building!

Our Coming of Age cohort is embarking on their pilgrimage to Cincinnati on Saturday, April 5th VERY early in the morning (wish us luck!) We are so excited to visit the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Cincinnati and have an exciting weekend packed with destinations: a private tour of the Harriet Beecher Stowe house, a historical riverboat cruise down the Ohio River, and a visit to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center (with a special exhibit on Mamie Till Mobley and Emmet Till) to name a few!

Our Coming of Agers had a fun time escaping at UNLOCKED Escape Room Wooster!

Take a peek into our EEE (Extra Extreme Explorers) classroom!

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, Rick Storck and Karen Skubik (Membership Coordinator)

Our annual **"MEET AND GREET" on MARCH 15TH** was a huge success!!

- Many thanks to the Membership Committee for planning the event that had 78 people sign up to attend.

- Although we had some cancellations the week before the event, the set-up crew (pictured here) did a beautiful job setting up the sanctuary with a spring theme including 16 card tables for small group conversations.
- More thanks to everyone who attended and brought something to share.
- There was certainly diversity in the conversations. Some were entertaining, interesting, deep, humorous, enlightening.....and all helped build bonds between our congregants.
- Special thanks to Bert for using a number generator to create table rotations and provide name tags showing table assignments.
- And, WOW - so many people stepped up to help put the sanctuary back in place for the next morning's service. Thank you!!

New Members

On February 22nd we offered an in-depth Membership Class and gave the attendees the option to sign our Membership Book. Last month we highlighted new member, Doris Bowman. We hope to highlight Trevor Keller, Caroline Georsky, and Michael and Marianne Abicht (who recently signed the Membership Book) in future newsletters. A **New Member Service will take place on April 27th** right before our annual meeting. It will involve covenanting between new members and the congregation.

On-Line UUFWC Directory

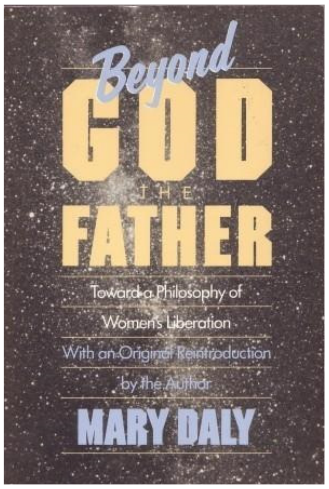
If you have not yet tried accessing our online directory, you can still do so at ANY time. It is constantly changing since people move, new people come along, households change, etc.
To access:
1. Go to iconcmo.com/login
2. Enter church phone number 330-262-9194.
3. Enter your assigned user name. If 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

On Sunday April 13 the Evening Book group will discuss Beyond God the Father: Toward a Philosophy of Women's Liberation by Mary Daly. Note THIS IS THE SECOND SUNDAY of the month, not our usual third Sunday. We gather in the Library at 7:00. On Sunday May 18 we will discuss The Known World: by Edward P. Jones. Our meeting will be on the usual 3rd Sunday of the month. If you have any questions contact Bert at bishop.eleven@gmail.com

Library News

Submitted by Kay Bowen, UUFWC Librarian

I found the new title below fascinating – expanding the narrow present-day understanding of transcendentalism, but of more importance to me bringing to light this formative emergence of feminism in this country. These women were remarkable! I could not put the book down.

BRIGHT CIRCLE: FIVE REMARKABLE WOMEN IN THE AGE OF TRANSCENDENTALISM
By Randall Fuller 141.3 Full 2024

"In November 1839, a group of young women in Boston formed a conversation society 'to answer the great questions' of special importance to women: 'What are we born to do? How shall we do it?' The lives and works of the five women who discussed these questions are at the center of Bright Circle, a group biography of remarkable thinkers and artists who played pathbreaking roles in the transcendentalist movement. Transcendentalism remains the most important literary and philosophical movement to have originated in the United States. Most accounts of it, however, trace its emergence to a group of young intellectuals (primarily Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau) dissatisfied with their religious, literary, and social culture. Yet there is a forgotten history of transcendentalism – a submerged counternarrative – that features a network of fiercely intelligent women who were central to the development of the movement even as they found themselves silenced by their culturally assigned roles as women. Bright Circle is intended to reorient our understanding of transcendentalism: to help us see the movement as a far more collaborative and interactive project between women and men than is commonly understood. It recounts the lives of Mary Moody Emerson, Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, Sophia Peabody Hawthorne, Lydia Jackson Emerson, and Margaret Fuller as they developed crucial ideas about the self, nature, and feeling even as they pushed their male counterparts to consider the rights of enslaved people of color and women. Many ideas once considered original to Emerson and Thoreau are shown to have originated with women who had little opportunity to publicly express them. Together, the five women of Bright Circle helped form the foundations of American feminism."
(Discriptive quote from book's inside front cover)

All Things Green

Submitted by Betty Schuler

CLIMATE INFORMATION REMOVED FROM FEDERAL WEBSITES: According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, thousands of environmental and public health federal data sources are no longer accessible. Many state governments run their environmental protection and public health programs dependent on the science and data collected by federal agencies. Scientists around the world rely on NASA, NOAA and the EPA to share data on rising temperatures, sea-level rise, greenhouse gas concentrations, extreme weather and carbon emissions. People around the world use the Environmental Protection Agency's website to learn how to protect themselves and to learn what their government is or is not doing to help. Without this data the work of scientists, government officials and civil organizations can grind to a halt.

Specific deletions include removal of all reference to climate change on the Environmental Protection Agency homepage and its "Environmental Topics" section. The State Department website's "Climate and Environment" page now includes no mention of the Paris Agreement, its "Climate Crisis" page has been removed as has its "Global Warming" links. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has removed the section, "Addressing the Climate Crisis", from its "In Focus" topics. The Department of Agriculture (USDA) has taken down all websites referring to climate crisis, including the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) website which provided resources, research and adaptation tools regarding wildfires. As of early March, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) still had a live Climate page, but its data distribution Center (NCEI) was undergoing "scheduled maintenance". The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) website displays a message about moving to a "more integrated portal on science" and the word "climate" has been removed from its url. In addition, more than 2,000 datasets have disappeared from data.gov, the largest repository of the U.S. government open data.

To save this valuable information, community advocacy groups, archivists and universities are racing to download climate resources and databases. Among these is the National Security Archive whose Climate Change Transparency Project publishes materials on climate change and environmental justice that have been deleted from agency web pages. Another is the Public Environmental Data Partners, a coalition of environmental, justice and policy organizations, university researchers and archivists.

What about future research? The Trump administration has moved to block scientific research funding across government agencies. The National Institutes of Health, the world's largest funder of scientific research is one of them. The dismantling of NIH's Climate Change and Health Initiative which funds research to reduce health threats from climate change has been ordered. Potential cuts are anticipated by the National Weather Service which provides weather modeling for government and private forecasting firms and broadcast meteorologists. According to the Yale Climate Connections, elimination of resources for scientific research could leave U.S. residents more vulnerable to climate disasters. *Sources: National Security Archive, Yale Climate Connections, Scientific American, Union of Concerned Scientists, The Daily Climate*.

Plant Sale Time!

submitted by Barb Moore

It's time again for the annual Moreland Garden Club plant sale pre-orders! There are order forms in a notebook in the lobby, or you can contact Barb Moore, 330-347-9957 via text or bmoore9@mac.com **via email and she will send you an electronic order form. Funds raised are used for activities at Wayne County Care Center, scholarships for ATI students and more!**

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 **April 6** Jim Bird will present 10 Reasons Democracies Die followed by questions and discussion.
- On **April 20** David Francis will present Solutions for the Unhoused 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

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Women's Lunch Group, We next meet **Tuesday, April 8th, 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. Information about these lunches can be found by contacting Karen.uufwc@gmail.com. Come join us!

The next meeting of EDGE (Elderhood Discussion Group Experience) will be on **Wednesday, April 16 at 5:30 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Steve Thomas for more information

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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

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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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