



UUFWC NEWSLETTER: MAY 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.

May 4th- "Equity"

Rev. Walter Clark, Minister

Finishing the sermon series on the six Unitarian Universalist values that stem from love, we take a deep dive into the concept of equity, how it differs from equality and the challenges of living it out into the world.

May 11th - "Flower Communion"

Rev. Walter Clark, Minister

Join us for this exploratory service centering the unique Unitarian Universalist ritual of flower communion. Bring a flower from your home garden and take a different one home as we talk about the values of diversity and community.

May 18th- " RE appreciation Sunday"

Rev. Walter Clark, Minister

Thank you to all of those who help out with Religion Exploration (RE)! We celebrate the mentoring of these wonderful volunteers and remind ourselves that the entire congregation is part of the mentoring process.

May 25th- "Memorial Day"

Gail Woosley, Commissioned Lay Minister

TBA

Newsletter Summer Break

This summer, we are trying something new! The monthly newsletter will be on hiatus for the summer months! Check your Friday Weekly Newsletter for congregational updates!

Minister's Meditation

It's an open secret, how I feel about the song Imagine by John Lennon. I am not a fan.

I will admit, some of it stems from my inner hipster. A hipster is someone who shuns what is popular as being bad just because it is popular. It's not a good reason but it does play a part in my feeling for this song.

I first heard this song in high school. I liked it well enough back then. However, my junior year I had to attend a memorial service for one of our fellow students who died unexpectedly. It was a student led service with some personal testimonials and student led prayers (Catholic High school). It also had two students singing Imagine. I thought to myself "I love this song" until a friend of mine whispered to me, "we just had a bunch of people talking about him going to heaven and being with God and now we hear a song with an opening line 'Imagine there's no heaven'. Doesn't that feel wrong?"

That was when I started to question what Imagine was all about.

So often, when I hear this song anymore, it is in a UU context. It feels weird to be in a congregation where everyone identifies as Unitarian Universalist to hear them all sing in unison, "Imagine no religion." Aren't we a part of a religious institution? It feels like a denial of why we have gathered in the first place.

I now realize what my issue is with Imagine. It's the word "no".



The inspiration for this song came from two distinct places. One was a poem by Yoko Ono entitled Cloud Piece which contains the line "Imagine the clouds dripping, dig a hole in your garden to put them in." The second source for Lennon was a Christian prayer book given to him by Dick Gregory, an African American writer, actor and activist. When asked about the book in an interview, Lennon said:

The concept of positive prayer ... If you can imagine a world at peace, with no denominations of religion—not without religion but without this my God-is-bigger-than-your-God thing—then it can be true ... the World Church called me once and asked, "Can we use the lyrics to 'Imagine' and just change it to 'Imagine one religion'?" That showed [me] they didn't understand it at all. It would defeat the whole purpose of the song, the whole idea.

When Lennon asks us to imagine no religion, he is asking us to imagine no one using religion to separate us. When he asks us to imagine no countries, he is asking us to imagine no one using their race or nationality to segregate others, to always be welcoming. When he asks us to imagine no possessions (and as a multi-millionaire he had plenty of possessions) he is asking us to not hoard wealth, but to use our wealth to help others.

What it boils down to for me, is that I see folks taking the song too literally, imagining certain things just disappearing in order to make the world a better place, when in reality we need to imagine how things like countries, religion and wealth should be used in love and not to separate us. We need to focus less on the 'no' of Imagine and actually use our imagination to envision what we can do to make the world a better place. Imagine using spirituality to lift others up instead of tearing them down. Imagine embracing all of the different cultures and diversity of nations instead of blind nationalism. Imagine using resources to help others and not just for your own prosperity.

I remember hearing a story about how John met Yoko. He was at one of her art installations and saw a piece of hers that was a ladder going up to the ceiling. When you climbed the ladder, you saw that on the ceiling in very tiny lettering was the word "yes". He loved the idea of having to work to see something positive. That is the spirit of Imagine for me. Making an effort to find the positive.

If that is how we are using the song, maybe, I could give Imagine one more chance.

Landscaping

ANNUAL LANDSCAPING DAY AND POTLUCK MAY 18!!

WE NEED YOU!!!!!!

Our annual Landscaping/Dress Down/Potluck Day will be held May 18 th following the service. Come join fellow congregants of all ages as we work together to beautify our grounds. If you can't stay for the mulching join us anyway for the potluck! All are welcome. If you have questions see Merry Gentry or Rachel Derr.

*bring a dish to share for the potluck

*bring your wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes and gloves

Merry Gentry
Rachel Derr





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.

mUUsic Program News!

mUUsic Activities:

Guitar Group: Wednesday, 5:30 pm

Choir: Wednesdays, 7 pm

Folk Orchestra: Mondays, 7 pm



FUNdraising

THANK YOU UU's!

Your enthusiastic support of the **Chalice Quilt** project and **Souper Sundays** made both a success! Both were lots of fun and helped raise funds for the operating budget. Here's a short summary:

Chalice Quilt:

- 33 unique, beautiful squares were created by UU's.
- Carol Noel, with the assist of James Griffith, used the squares to make an awesome quilt.
- Gail Carter won the quilt raffle and generously donated it to the UUFWC for all to enjoy.
- Raffle ticket sales raised \$242 for the UUFWC.

Souper Sundays:

- Folks stayed after the service on three Sunday, to enjoy conversation with their homemade soup and rolls.
- James Griffith was chief soup maker, with contributions from Sammi Beery, Erin Palmer, Barb Tytula, and Mary Wicks.
- Barb Tytula, with the help of Joe, made the delicious rolls.
- Soup sales raised \$682 for the UUFWC.

Many thanks for your support! Brought to you by the FUNdraising Committee: Sammi Beery, James Griffith, Jay Klemme, Carol Noel, Erin Palmer, Dawn Thomas, Barb Tytula, Cherrill Wertz, and Mary Wicks

'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 May, we will share the plate with OneEighty.**

"OneEighty is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people change direction. Our services help people recover from addiction and substance use. We assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault (including Rape Crisis Services) and provide other critical services including Mental Health, Community Relations and Prevention (prevention & education) and Housing & Supportive Services in Wayne and Holmes counties in Ohio." - from the website

Learn more at: <https://www.one-eighty.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].
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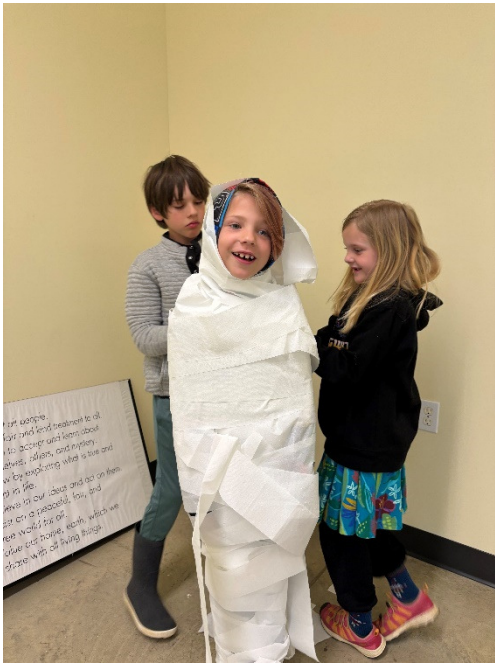
Family Ministry

During the month of May, our spiritual theme will be the Practice of Imagination! Children will explore how using our imaginations can help us problem solve and find hope, help us think outside the box, help us understand the world around us, and most importantly, help us have fun!



In April, we had a busy month both in the RE classrooms and in programs outside of RE time! Our Coming of Age group embarked on their pilgrimage to Cincinnati, where they had a fantastic time learning and bonding together. We are all looking forward to the Coming of Age service on June 1st, where we will get to hear the youth share their Credo statements and learn more details about their experience. Our 5th and 6th grade OWL class continues and has a robust group of 17 participants - and lots of giggling and fun!

In Religious Education, our focus in April was the Practice of Joy. I think the photos speak for themselves!



Some services to note in May:

May 11: Flower Communion - this service will be exploratory (all ages)

May 18: RE Appreciation! Please come show your appreciation for the many dedicated folks who make RE an amazing experience for children and youth and hear about what our young folks did in RE this year!

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

Look at all those smiling faces!!! During the April 27 service we recognized new members Michael A (second from left), Marianne A, Trevor K, Doris B, and Caroline G. They've all been with us at least 1.5 years and have participated in the life of the congregation with their contributions to landscaping, coffee making, our religious education program, committee work, and the Folk Orchestra. Doris's bio appeared in our March newsletter. You can learn more about the others below:



Marianne Abicht was born and raised in Raleigh, NC, with North Carolina serving as the focus of her love, life, work, and travel. She graduated from UNC, Chapel Hill with a degree in physical therapy which led to a practice in neurotrauma at Duke University Hospital. Both Michael and Marianne are definitely pet-lovers!

Michael Abicht spent 14 years teaching biology and developing gifted student Advanced Placement classes for college prep. He was an OSHA Safety Consultant for private companies in both North Carolina and Ohio in the construction and general industries. Michael also enjoyed serving for 8 years as a consulting co-chairman of the NC Native Plant Society performing various activities for the southeast coastal chapter in Wilmington, NC. Thank you, Michael, for your 4-year tour of duty in the US Marine Corps during the Vietnam War.

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Caroline Georskey grew up in NE Ohio but only moved to Wooster three years ago. She works at The Ohio State University Agricultural and Technical Institute and enjoys reading in her free time. Caroline is excited to be a part of the UUFWC community.
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Trevor Keller is a recent transplant from the Hudson Valley of New York, by way of the Maryland suburbs of DC, where they work as a government scientist. A third-generation UU raised in the Poughkeepsie, NY fellowship,

Trevor's atheist spirit is delighted to have found a thriving community in Wooster, close to beloved family and bursting with wonderful humans. Blesséd be.



Spring Campfire Time!

**Saturday
June 7th
7:30 pm**

**(The sun sets at 9:00pm so
we have plenty of time for
games while it's still light
out.)**

*Feel the
Warmth of
your UFWC
Community*

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

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

**The Membership
Committee will supply
S'More makings and
corn hole. Please
bring your favorite
yard games too.**

**For more information
Contact
Karen.uufwc@gmail.com**

On-Line UFWC 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.

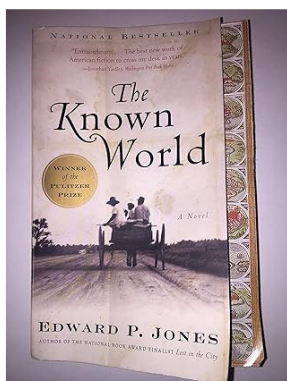
Reminder: the information in our directory is private and not to be shared outside the fellowship.

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

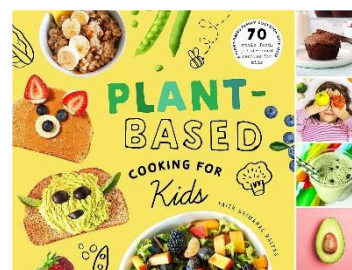


Book Group

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, UFWC Librarian

PLANT-BASED COOKING FOR KIDS: A PLANT-BASED FAMILY COOKBOOK WITH OVER 70 WHOLE-FOOD, PLANT-BASED RECIPES FOR KIDS By Faith Goimarac Ralphs (Parenting Shelf) 641.56362 Ralph 2022



“You know a plant-based diet is good for you, but how on earth do you get your kids to join in? Introducing Plant-Based Cooking for Kids, the essential cookbook for families everywhere! Whether you’re fully plant-based, just starting out, or an omnivore somewhere in between, Plant-Based Cooking for Kids can help everyone and comes packed with the recipes and tips you’ll need to make kid-friendly plant food for the kiddos (and adults!) in your home.

From Fluffy Pancakes to tasty Taquitos, Box Mac ‘n’ “Cheese” to “Meaty” Spaghetti, Chickpea Nuggets to soft-serve “Nice” Cream, every delicious recipe includes a gorgeous full-color photo and easy-to-follow steps. A helpful introduction at the beginning offers dozens of tips on plant-based eating, easy

substitutions, conversions, and even ideas for getting your kids more involved in the kitchen – after all, they’re more likely to eat what they’ve helped create.

So get cooking! And don’t be surprised when your kids ask for seconds...of plants!”
(Descriptive quote from the book’s back cover.)

All Things Green Submitted by Betty Schuler

UPDATE ON THE U.S. NON-FEDERAL CLIMATE MOVEMENT: the January, 2025 column described the efforts by the private sector through the “We Are Still In” coalition to protect the country from the effects of climate change following the 2016 election. The 2024 election has brought increased efforts, especially from faith groups. As the Trump administration has quickly moved to gut environmental regulations and federal programs for reducing climate pollution and taken steps to pull out of the Paris Climate Agreement, religious groups are mobilizing to keep fighting climate change. Although some evangelical leaders have backed the Administration’s dismissal of climate science, most faith leaders say teachings in the Bible, the Torah, the Quran and other sacred texts compel people to be good stewards of the earth.

Some 839 faith communities have joined with 2,978 businesses, 428 universities and colleges, 175 major investors, 362 local governments, 10 states and 13 tribal nations in declaring they will continue the work of fulfilling the U.S. pledge to the Paris Agreement to reduce climate emissions through the “America is All In” coalition which is a merger of “We Are Still In” and “America’s Pledge” coalitions. The goal of “America is All In” is to meet the obligations of the Paris Agreement by cutting U.S. emissions in half from 2005 levels by 2030 and reaching zero emissions by mid-century. Its plan is to develop a national climate strategy that meets the urgency of the climate crisis, benefits from the experiences of its partners and promotes the leadership of non-federal actors on the world stage.

UUs have addressed climate change issues in a number of ways. In 2018 the UUA, through the UU Climate Justice Coalition, supported the “We Are Still In” coalition. It now supports the “America is All In” coalition. The UU Climate Justice Coalition consists of 11 participating organizations: UUA Side With Love Organizing Strategy Team, UU Ministry for Earth, Coalition of UU State Action Networks, UU Animal Ministry, UU College of Social Justice, UUs for a Just Economic Community, UUA Office of International Resources, UU Service Committee, UUs for Social Justice, UU Women’s Federation, UU Young Adults for Climate Justice. Recently 16 UU congregations and the UU Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network became affiliated with “America is All In”.

In 2021 the UU Common Endowment Fund engaged 18 companies on climate change among other issues. As a result, Ford Motor Company and CSX Railroad issued reports on the alignment of their trade associations’ policy position with the goals of the Paris Agreement, Comcast agreed to set emissions targets consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement and Xcel and Exelon made net zero emissions commitments. UUSJ through its Environmental Action Team continues to address the climate crisis through lobbying Congress and partnering with community and faith groups to develop lobbying and witness efforts. Through 2024 and 2025 the UUA is encouraging congregations to participate in UU Climate Justice Revivals in order to renew their commitment to climate justice. *Sources: Yale Climate Connections, Haggard Earth, UUA website, UUSJ website, UU Ministry for Earth website*

Plant Sale 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!

Vonic Update
submitted by David Paul

VONIC BURN UPDATE:

Hey folks I want to thank all who helped with Vonics under the shoulder surgery. We are now at the stage where we have to do the elbow. Would any of you please consider helping again? Sebastiano has the information in this post. Again thank you so much.

[Facebook Post](#)



Wish a Happy Birthday to:

Scott Beil, Inez Bird, Bert Bishop, Lloyed Boyer, Josh Frank, Faith Griffiths, Dan Stavnezer, Mary Wicks, Hannes Wiebe, Gail Woosley, George Rusiska

Wish a Happy Anniversary to:

Janice & Jack Baxstrom, Kevina & Rainbow-Fire Earthchild, Laura & Phil Grimm, Karen Skubik & Casey Hoy, Sarah Miles & Wayne Perkins, Margaret & Lloyd Boyer

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 **May 4** Merry Gentry will present The New Apostolic Reformation: Christian Nationalism in Action followed by questions and discussion.
- On **May 18** we will live our Humanist values by helping our community through participation in the UU Landscape Work Day. Many hands make light work!

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, May 13th, 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, May 21 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

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.



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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