

UUFWC NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER 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.

September 7th ~ Water Communion

Rev. Walter Clark, Minister

Join us for our annual Water Communion ceremony this Sunday as we honor the importance of community and celebrate the gifts that we bring to it. Bring some water from your favorite place or just your tap!

September 14th ~ "More Than Just A Room"

Rev. Walter Clark, Minister

This Sunday marks the beginning of our religious exploration program for our children and youth. We often talk about the importance of our children to our faith, but what does that look like in practice?

September 21st ~ Fall Equinox

Rev. Walter Clark, Minister

Rev. Walter and music director Sharon Delgadillo welcome the fall equinox. Together we will honor this day of balance and the spirit of harvest.

September 28th ~ "The Flower That Shattered The Stone"

Change is a constant in our lives, but often the change we wish to see in the world seems slow in the face of oppression. How do we build a world of belonging and justice when powerful forces seem to do everything in their power to stop it?

Minister's Meditation

I am worried for the soul of the country. By soul I mean the spirit in which it was founded.

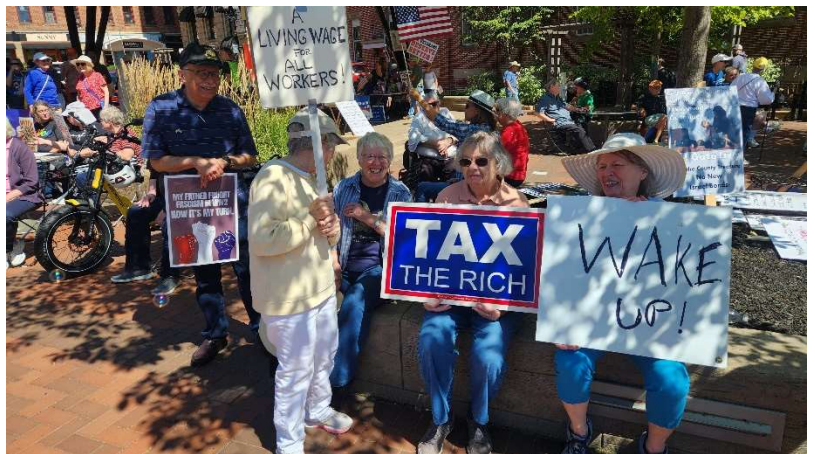
Our founders were looking for a place where they could practice whatever religion they wished without a king telling them what to believe. They wanted to rule over themselves and not have their lives dictated by a single person in power who had no idea what it was like to live an everyday existence. They wanted a place where they had autonomy.

I will be the first to admit that those who founded this country didn't get it right immediately. They enslaved black folks, ignored the rights of women and only let those who held land be able to vote, creating a sort of caste system between the haves and have-nots. But we let those principles of equity and justice guide our path and slowly began to grow into a nation where people believed they could make a better life for themselves, no matter their race, creed, or station.

As a Unitarian Universalist, I see these ideals that our country was founded on at the center of our faith. We believe that all people have worth, that no one deserves to be oppressed or restricted for their identity. We believe that all voices have merit, not just the ones who come from wealth and power. We believe that strength comes from diversity and there is always an opportunity to do better. No, it isn't easy. Yes, we will make mistakes, but we aren't afraid of them. We are afraid of not learning from those mistakes and repeating them over and over again.

To ignore these values that brought this nation into existence is to become the tyrannical regime that we escaped. Our nation needs our faith, in this moment more than ever.

Keep protesting. Keep writing letters to the editor. Keep backing candidates that support the values of justice, equity, compassion, diversity, and transformation. Keep living your Unitarian Universalist values out loud, *and proudly!* Run for office. Boycott businesses that don't live into our values. Donate to causes that do. Live into your values at every opportunity. Let Love guide you. We need it right now.



Water Communion



Join us for our annual Water Communion ritual next **Sunday, September 7th**. You are invited to bring water to service from a place that is special to you. Whether it be from a place you visited over the summer or your very own tap. In this exploratory service there will be different water stations to explore in community.

Committee Fair
September 7th, 2025

How do we share our LOVE at the UUFWC?



Find out at our 9/7/25

Committee Fair

- Want to get more involved?
- Which committees need the most help?
- Can I join any committee?
- Where would my interests and skills be most useful?
- How do the committees work?
- **Committees will have tables set up in the sanctuary after the Water Communion Service. Visit at least 5 tables and receive a sweet treat!**

More information:: Contact any member of the Membership Committee

Social Action Committee (SAC)

Since May, you have contributed more than \$1,500 to One Eighty, the Akron/Canton Foodbank, and the Wooster Hope Center in our 'Share the Plate' project. Thanks so much to you all!!

Social Action in Action

This summer the UUFWC SAC and Wooster Defending Democracy co-sponsored Wooster's Pride Day in Christmas Run Park. Total fun! The UU table, Rev. Walter, and a half dozen UUFWC volunteers chatted with attendees as we handed out pride and UU stickers and hard candy. UUFWC young adults worked the silent auction and face painting.

Since April, the UUFWC has provided and served Tuesday lunch for 12-15 guests at Homeward Bound (HB). It's both fulfilling to serve the guests and fun to hang with fellow UUFWC folks and HB staff. We're going to try some new approaches this Fall and see if we can expand the fun! The UUFWC Thursday Breakfast crew continues to serve upwards of 50 guests each week at the United Church of Christ (UCC).

Our biggest contribution to improving our own environment and that of our neighbors near and far, is the capital campaign that will help us decrease our carbon footprint by supplementing our solar array.

The SAC now has a permanent home across from the coffee table in the foyer. The Homeward Bound and People to People baskets are under the table with signs indicating what we're concentrating on for the month. The posters on the bulletin board above have a URL, if you prefer to donate that way.



For September, let's focus on Paper and Cleaning Products for People to People and Personal Hygiene Needs for Homeward Bound. A note on personal needs donations – items that you contribute should be in their original packaging. There are legal and health safety reasons that loose items (e.g. tampons, sanitary napkins) cannot be dispensed at HB. So, if it comes in a box, please bring it in the box. Thanks so much! And, thanks so much for your continued support of these great local programs!!

Please stop by the Social Action Table at the Committee Fair! We'll be there to let you know what we're up to and help you find your place on the UUFWC Social Action Team. Just so you know – we have some activities and goals that we act on as teams – HB and UUC are examples. We team up with the Humanists on local, national, and international levels and with other groups to make our voices heard. We'd love to have you share in the fun.

We also have quieter, but still important goals. If you're interested in local politics, we can use your help by being our 'ears'. If you're interested in the UU Social Justice Committee (UUSJ), we'd love to have you join, follow, and participate in their activities, while helping the UUFWC about opportunities they offer. If you're one of us for which computer-based communications are second nature and you're interested in social action, we could use your help. We strive to keep our committee meetings both short and upbeat. We welcome everyone, but you don't have to attend our meetings to be a part of Social Action. Our September meeting will be 7-8 PM on September 18 at the Fellowship. Hope to see you there!!

mUUsic Program News!

How Good it is to Make Music Together
Music can make you healthier!

A study that came out of University of California, Irvine found that Immunoglobulin A, a protein used by the immune system to fight disease, increased by 150% during rehearsals and 240% during performances. How amazing that something so fun can be so good for you!

We are kicking off the new music season.

Folk Rehearsals are on Mondays at 7:00 pm and Choir Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Both are in the Large Gathering Room.

If you haven't played your instrument in a while, no worries, Sharon will arrange the music to your level. Feel like you can't sing or have never sung in a choir? Again, no worries, we will help you learn how to make a joyful noise.

We had our kickoff mUUsic potluck and enjoyed good food and fellowship.

Do you have a
karaoke machine that you
would be willing to loan
the mUUsic Committee for an
event?
If yes, please contact Sharon
at music.director@uufwc.org



Save the Date!

What: Fall Chill & Karaoke Night

When: 10/11/25 at 7:00 pm

Where: At the UU Fellowship

Come sing some karaoke and enjoy an ice cream sundae buffet.

**If you would like to share your musical talent in a service, please contact Sharon
@music.director@uufwc.org.**

mUUsic Activities:

Guitar Group: Wednesday, 5:30 pm

Choir: Wednesdays, 7 pm

Folk Orchestra: Mondays, 7 pm



FUNdraising

Fun and Funds!

SAVE THE DATE! On Sunday, October 26 @ 5 pm, the FUNdraising Committee is holding a Chili Cookoff & Game Night. Enter your favorite chili into the competition or just be a taster and judge. A fun night for the whole family! Stay tuned for details.

The 2025 YARD SALE was a success, raising ~\$3,300 to support the UUFWC operating budget. THANK YOU to Debbie Harkey, who organized everything and made it fun! And, THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered to work and donated items.

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 September, we will share the plate with People to People.



People to People Ministries is an Emergency Needs Ministry and is here to help those in need when there's no place else to turn. We believe that in any society a number of individuals will experience crisis during their lifetime in which they are unable to obtain adequate food, shelter, clothing. The purpose of

PTPM is to provide an immediate, realistic, and compassionate response to people with these basic needs when these needs are not being met through any other programs. This program is a non-profit ministry supported through donations from churches, civic organizations, private individuals, and the Wayne County Community Foundation.

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 the Administrator to designate your contribution. [fellowship@uufwc.org].

Family Ministry

Welcome September! We look forward to another church year as our RE and Youth programming return on Sunday, September 14th with RE Kickoff day and Backpack Blessings! May we enjoy another year of learning, growing, and bonding together in our UU Community. Some dates to note:

9/6 - RE Volunteer Appreciation and Training Breakfast

9/7 - Water Communion All Ages Exploratory Service

9/14 - RE Kickoff and Backpack Blessings; nursery opens



Thank you to our families and volunteers who spent time with us in Summer RE! We learned about a variety of fascinating topics from our guest teachers, spent a lot of time exploring the nature on and around our property, and enjoyed the beautiful play space. Here are a few pics!



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)

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.

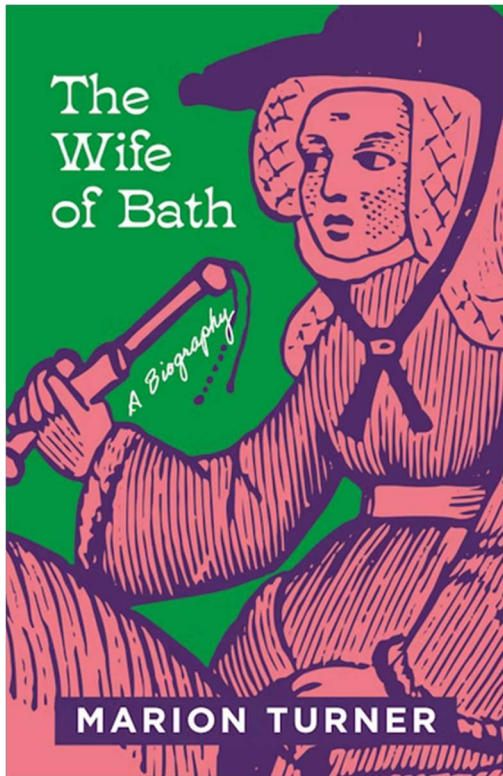
Also - if you'd like a new household photo for the directory, (some of them are decades old) simply send a digital photo to Karen or ask her or anyone to take a photo of your household members.

Vegan Potluck

Submitted by Karen Armstrong

The Vegan Potlucks continue, 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: 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 September
September 21st, the
Evening Book group will
discuss *The Wife of Bath: a
Biography* by Marion
Turner. We gather in the
library at 7:00.

In October and November
we will discuss *The
Midnight Library* by Matt
Haig and/or *The Fire Next
Time* by James Baldwin.

If you have any questions
contact Bert at
bishop.eleven@gmail.com



Wish a Happy Birthday to:

Joe Churpek

Wish a Happy Anniversary to:

Jeff & Sherri Gochnauer

Library News

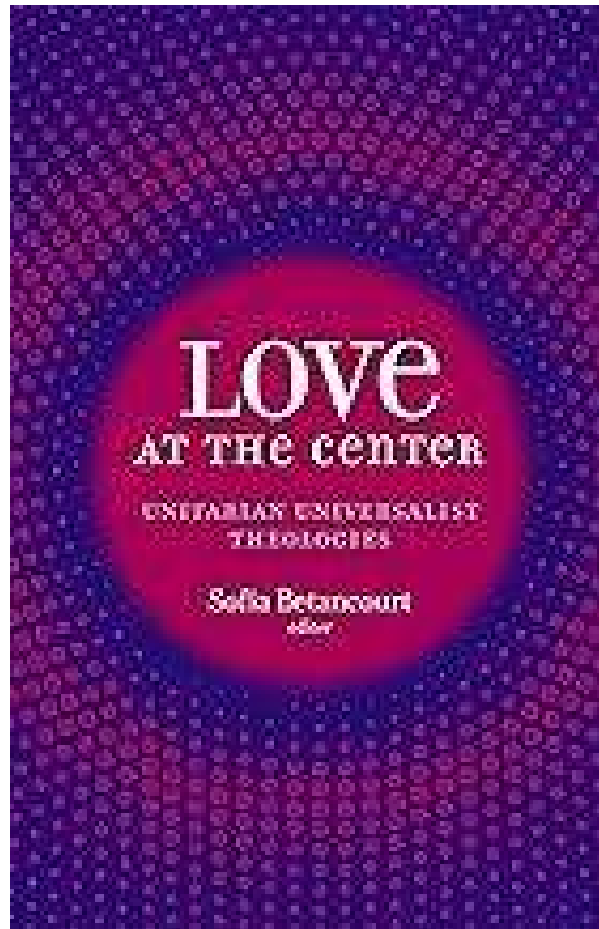
Submitted by Kay Bowen, UUFWC Librarian

Unitarian Universalists as a progressive religious community hold a humbling expectation to periodically re-evaluate the freely chosen covenant that holds us together. While this work impacts the bylaws that define our governance structures, it also gives life to the values we express in common cause. We do this work to live into the Unitarian Universalism of the future.

In response to the Article II Study Commission and the final adopted language of Article II outlining our shared values, it is clear that the value most describe as central to their faith, to their living, and to the mission of their congregations is love itself. We are a people guided by, and centered in, our engagement with all that love requires.

Our pressing task now is to ask ourselves and each other how this understanding calls us forward, individually and collectively. We may agree that love is central, but what does that mean to us and what does it require of us? It is in that spirit that we asked more than two dozen leaders in our movement the question of what it means to put love at the center of our faith.

In these pages, you'll find personal testimony to love's power, reminders of the centrality of love throughout the long histories of Universalism and Unitarianism, and theologies of love drawn from many different expressions of Unitarian Universalism—from the natural world to the justice rally, to a loved one's deathbed, to the quiet moment before a worship service begins. May *Love at the Center* serve as an invitation to deepen your own understanding and practices of love.



All Things Green
Submitted by Betty Schuler

GET OUTSIDE AND EXPLORE WAYNE COUNTY Our county is blessed with a wide variety of sites for hiking, walking, biking, birding, fishing and simply enjoying the outdoors. Some, as Wooster Memorial Park, Oak Hill Park, Secrest Arboretum, Killbuck Marsh and the four biking trails: Heartland, Salt Creek, County Line and Sippo Valley, are known to many local outdoor enthusiasts. However, there are other sites which are either new or less well known which also offer opportunities for outdoor adventures. The following are among these.

Walton Woods Park: located on Mechanicsburg Road, North of Bowman Street, this 9.30 acre park is naturally wooded with wildflowers, trees and over one mile of walking trails. Parking lot is off of Mechanicsburg Rd.

Clear Creek Park: located on Venture Blvd which runs North off of Old Mansfield Rd., this new (2022) 11 acre park has a three quarter mile trail over two boardwalks with an overlook of Clear Creek, a tributary of Killbuck Creek. A pavilion, playground and restrooms are available. _

Barnes Preserve: Once part of the Wayne County Care Center, this county park is located is at 3396 Sylvan Rd. Containing 76 acres, it has .9 mile paved ADA accessible trail, a wetland pond and a meadow with native flowering plantings. A pavilion and parking are at the front of the property.

Johnson Woods State Nature Preserve: located at 13240 Fox Lake Road, Marshallville, this 155 acre site has one of Ohio's largest and best remaining old-growth forests with 1.4 miles of walking trail. In 1823 when it was purchased by the Johnson family, some of the trees were already 200 years old. Wildflowers and birds that are dependent on large forest tracts can be found.

Robert Brooker Nature Preserve: opened November, 2024 is located at 44 Euclid Street in Marshallville. This 50 acre site features a three part trail: Marshallville Nature Trail .6 miles unpaved, Dwayne Groll Trail, .4 miles ADA compliant, Red Solar Trail .1 miles ADA compliant. To reach the preserve, park at the Heartland Trail Trailhead at 50 E. Market Street, walk north along the bike trail, cross the road and walk .3 mile to its trailhead. See spring wildflowers, and birds.

Brown's Lake Bog Preserve: located on Brown Rd. off S. Elyria Rd. west of Shreve is owned by The Nature Conservancy and has been declared a National Natural Landmark. This 100 acre preserve is a bog with floating sphagnum moss mat, a 7 acre kettle-hole lake, one of the few remaining kettle hole peatlands in Ohio, and kames (glacially formed hills). It has .87 miles of boardwalk and earthen trail.

Funk Bottoms Wildlife Area: located off State Route 95 east of the village of Funk, this almost 2,000 acre site is mostly wetland attracting huge numbers of waterfowl during spring migration, 23 species of waterfowl (including Tundra swans) and 28 species of shorebirds. Sandhill Cranes are known to nest here. A parking area and wildlife observation platform are off State Route 95.

William J. Robertson Nature Preserve: opened 2022, is located on the east side of Rittman on Morning Star Drive (Shondel Road). This 210 acre preserve, formerly the site of an industrial facility, has 7.2 miles of walking and hiking trails, a kayaking area, nine ponds and bird watching opportunities. 136 bird species have been identified including trumpeter swans and nesting bald eagles and ospreys.

For more information about these locations' amenities and restrictions check individual websites.

UU Humanist Group

The **UU Humanist Group** will meet on the **first and third Sunday of each month starting Sept. 21st at 11:30** in the Large Group Room.

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



From the UUFWC Board of Directors

At the UUFWC Board meeting on August 12th, the following individuals were elected to various Board positions:

President: Steve Thomas
Vice-President: Kristin Keating
Secretary: Kaitlynn Arnholt

These individuals are joined in service to the UU congregation by other Board members: Jo Harper (Past President); James Griffith, Betsy Sheets, and Rick Storck.

The Board also would like to thank the following individuals whose terms on the Board of Directors has ended: Laura Burch (Past President), Barb Long Moore, and Barb Moore.

The Board appreciates the many Members and Friends of the UUFWC who have contributed to the Green Capital Campaign, helping to fund the installation of solar panels on the addition of the building, the future replacement of "inverters" relative to that solar energy system, and any cost overruns that might occur in the completion of these projects. The Board admires the continued, active commitment of all those involved in this successful campaign, those who are UUFWC staff and those serving on various UU committees, and all those who take the time to be a part of the overall UUFWC community and its many different activities. We are truly a community, interdependent on each other!

As we look forward to the year ahead, please know that together we will continue to do our best to rise to the various challenges that may be presented to us all, celebrating one another each and every day.

May it be so!

This Month's Meetings

[See all the events on our website: https://uufwc.org/calendar/](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 **Safety Committee** will be hosting an interactive presentation about the "**Power of Hello**" in keeping us safe and de-escalation conversations on **Sunday, September 14th, from 11:30-12:30 in the Fahs room** (large group room). All are welcome. Contact Safety Committee Chair Adam Keating with any questions.

There will be a **Religious Exploration Volunteer Training and Appreciation** breakfast the morning of **Saturday, September 6th at 9:30** in the Large Group Room.

The **Social Action Committee** will be meeting on **Thursday, September 18th at 7:00 pm** in the Large Group Room.

Choir Rehearsal Wednesdays at 7-8 pm. 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 on **Wednesday, September 3rd at 12:15 pm**. All UUFWC women are welcome to join us every first Wednesday 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](mailto:karen.uufwc@gmail.com). Come join us!

The next meeting of EDGE (Elderhood Discussion Group Experience) will be on **Wednesday, September 17 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 (5:30 pm 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 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: Steve Thomas - President, Jo Harper - Past President, Kristin Keating - Vice President, Kaitlynn Arnholt - Secretary, James Griffith Jr., Betsy Sheets, Rick Storck. Sarah Miles - Treasurer

Minister: Rev. Walter Clark: rev@uufwc.org, Phone 330-262-9194, Ext #1

- Office Hours by appointment
- TEXT is the best way to communicate, then phone call. E-mail only if you do not need an immediate response.

Office Administrator: Candace Gordon: fellowship@uufwc.org, Ext #0

- Sun: 9 - 12, Mon. Wed. & Thurs: 8:30 - 12:30

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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