



The Newsletter for

# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

of Wayne County

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

December 2016

## UUF News

### **December Service Schedule**

Sunday services are at 9:30 and 11:00

Join us for coffee after the service.

#### **December 4: *Spiritual Sleepwalking*** (Steve Cook, CLM)

Weekly services are a time for reflection and fellowship. We should be joyful, respectful, thankful and fully present. Are you?

#### **December 11: *Putting Christ in Christmas*** [Rev. Elaine Strawn]

Who and what was born during this holy season? Created over and over again in the centuries since his birth, he is almost unrecognizable at times.

**December 18: *Holiday Pageant*:** At 9:30, Rev. Strawn will give an abbreviated version of the Holiday Pageant. At 11:00, Children, youth and adult actors will present 'Holiday Lawsuit', a fun and informative play that explores the origins of Christmas, and the children's choir will perform.

#### **December 24: 7:00PM - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

[Rev. Elaine Strawn]

Each year, we celebrate Christmas Eve together with carols, stories and candles. Join us!

#### **December 25: 10:00AM - Christmas Celebration and Fellowship**

[Rev. Elaine Strawn]

NOTE: There is ONE SERVICE this morning. We will have a short service, then share some refreshments as we celebrate Christmas Day together.

#### **January 1, 10:00AM - *Sharing Our Wishes for the New Year***

[Rev. Elaine Strawn]

NOTE: There is ONE SERVICE this morning. What do you hope for in 2017? Bring fruit or breakfast baked goods to share. We will have a short service to welcome 2017, and share our hopes for the coming year.

See page 7 for a brief description of some of the regular activities that take place throughout the month at the UUFWC.

Or check out the calendar at [uufwc.org](http://uufwc.org) for more ideas.

### ***The Minister's Column***

On 13 January of this year, The Washington Post's Caitlin Gibson wrote an article entitled, "How Politically Correct Went from Compliment to Insult." Obviously, "politically correct" has gone from our mores; seemingly, we no longer need to be held to account for what erupts from our mouths. The hate speech unleashed during the presidential campaign is causing a blight across the land. But was PC ever enough anyway? It means, "I need to know what people will think of me if I say....". PC means I will refrain from slurs because it is not polite. Truly, has that really ever been enough? PC has always been weak: externally motivated.

I think we are being called to something higher. What if we substituted LS: Loving Speech? Instead of labeling a person or even assuming their ethnicity/orientation/gender equates to a certain behavior or opinion-what if we asked directly? We could get to know one another more deeply. It would force us to have conversations that are deeper, more complex. Our attitudes could expand.

What if our motivations were loving, welcoming, rather than satisfying external expectations? It would have two effects: First, we would be building --comment by comment-- an harmonious culture filled with diversity and closer relationship with our neighbors. Secondly, it could repattern our neuropathways. We would be searching for new words. We would be thinking with greater complexity. It would change us, this goal of speaking loving speech.

As we enter the season of verbal wars of "Happy Holidays" and "Merry Christmas", Hanukkah-Solstice-Christmas-Bodhi Day, how can we enlarge our vision. I might try, "And Merry Christmas to you. Actually, I am Jewish...isn't it great that Hanukkah and Christmas are the same day this year? Happy Hanukkah to you."

Whoever you are, we welcome you...

### ***Letter from Board President***

Change can be difficult and sometimes scary. As our country prepares for a transition in the coming year, I am glad to be part of the UUFWC community. While we may not always agree on everything, it is comforting to know that I am part of such a welcoming community where we can disagree without being disagreeable.

According to the old saying, "you can choose your friends, but you can't choose your family." But I disagree. This Fellowship is a family, one that I have chosen to be a part of. And I'm glad that all of you have chosen to be part of it as well.

--Tony Beery

## ***Religious Education***

Actors of all ages are invited to participate in this year's Holiday Pageant. This year we will be performing "*Holiday Lawsuit*," a fun and informative play that explores the origins of Christmas. Both speaking roles for adults and older children/youth as well as non-speaking roles for little ones are available. Rehearsals are scheduled Wednesdays, December 7 and 14 from 6-7pm and on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 10a-12pm at the Fellowship. **The pageant will be performed for the congregation on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> during the 11am service. No RE classes or nursery will be offered that day because all ages are welcome in the sanctuary!** Please let me know if you and/or your child would like to participate by emailing: [chelsea.uufwc@gmail.com](mailto:chelsea.uufwc@gmail.com) or showing up for the first rehearsal.

\*\*\*\*\*

Don't forget to turn in your registration form for the 2016-17 church year! Registering your child for Religious Education helps us to better plan the year's activities, to have the most up to date information on your child, and know how best to reach you. The form has been updated this year to make it easier for you to complete. If you haven't already done so, please visit here to register your child: <http://www.uufwc.org/learning/religious-education/>

*For information about Religious Education, please contact Chelsea Churpek, Director of Religious Education, at [chelsea.uufwc@gmail.com](mailto:chelsea.uufwc@gmail.com)*

*To request child care for fellowship meetings or events, email [childcare.uufwc@gmail.com](mailto:childcare.uufwc@gmail.com)*

## Upcoming Events

### **DECEMBER**

3- Recycled Material Christmas Craft Workshop 10a-Noon

7- Holiday Pageant Rehearsal 6p & Youth Choir 7p

14 – Holiday Pageant Rehearsal 6p & Youth Choir 7p

17- Pageant Dress Rehearsal 10a

18-Holiday Pageant  
--Actors/Singers arrive at 10a  
--Pageant is performed at 11

25-Christmas Service- 10am  
For Christmas Day we will have one all-ages service followed by brunch foods and fellowship. No RE Classes or Nursery will be offered this day.

### **JANUARY**

15-Parents Group

22-Living the Principles All-ages Services at 9:30 & 11am  
(No RE Classes/Nursery only)

### **FEBRUARY**

24-Pizza and the Principles 5:30-7:30pm

26- Living the Principles All-ages Services at 9:30 & 11am  
(No RE Classes/Nursery only)

### **A Message from Youth Community**

Members of Youth Community continued to learn, grow, and serve during October and November. In our RE (Religious Education) *Popcorn Theology* sessions, the youth engaged in an exploration of UU ethics through films like *Back to the Future* (a lesson on embracing change), *Forrest Gump* (a lesson on gratitude), and *Saved!* (a lesson on faith and the “gray areas” in life). Youth in grades 8 to 10 continue to explore sexual and personal health topics through the high school OWL curriculum. OWL youth completed a day long workshop on November 19 before taking a break for the holiday season.

Youth Community provided a helping hand at the UFWC Craft Show in October. The youth, along with their families, provided goodies for the craft show bake sale. They also volunteered as lunch counter and bake sale attendants. The money raised through bake sale donations and lunch counter sales will help the youth fund their Coming of Age programming for next year. Thank you to the craft show coordinators and congregation for your support!

Youth Community gathered in late October to carve pumpkins, socialize, and organize some fun activities for the children in RE. The children enjoyed a dance party, pumpkin bowling, a mummy wrapping contest, and a skeleton craft, all of which Youth Community set up and supervised. Following the election in November, members of Youth Community created #NeighborhoodLoveNotes in chalk on the drive and walkways outside the Fellowship. Their words of love, acceptance, and welcome were inspiring! The youth wrapped up November with a community breakfast on November 20, and by ringing bells for the Salvation Army on November 30. Our Youth Community Fall Lock-In was canceled due to busy fall schedules, but we look forward to rescheduling in December or January.

If you would like to learn more about Youth Community, you may reach Dawn Frank, Youth and Campus Ministries Coordinator, at [dawn.uufwc@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.uufwc@gmail.com), or during her office hours on Tuesdays from 5:00pm to 8:00pm.

### ***Stewardship***

THANK YOU!

In this season of gratitude, we want everyone of you to know just how much you are appreciated. For this 2016 fiscal year, you strengthened this congregation with a 50% increase in your pledges.

THANK YOU!

And, 77% of you pledged. THANK YOU!

Your generosity allowed us to meet our 2016 goal. THANK YOU!

You are AWESOME! We are so GRATEFUL!

THANK YOU!

Your stewardship team: Mary Wicks (chair), Bonnie Groop, Helen Meyers, Laura Moore, Mikel Anne North, Wayne Perkins, and Danni Schantz

### *From the Membership Committee*

Each person who walks through the doors to our Fellowship forges their own path of finding what they hope to gain from our congregation, as well as what they will share with us. Some want to become a member right away, others want to become fully involved before signing our membership book, while others are content to exist in the “friend” status for months, years, or even decades. We have some members who “transfer” from other congregations, while some may return after years of living in another part of the country.

This variety of paths to membership was reflected in the journey of those who joined our Fellowship this year. On October 30<sup>th</sup>, we recognized seven new members during the New Member Sunday Service. We greatly appreciate their commitment to the UUFWC and what we stand for in our mid-western state.

Those who walked their own path and became a member in 2016 include: John Hart, David Francis, Justine Sherwood, Jan Steinbrenner, Lowell Steinbrenner (returning), Ivie Sorkin, Art Chenevey, Barb Moore (our second Barb Moore), Mike Lagana, Nate Chandler, and Lesley Mayfield.

**New members:** Please put Saturday, January 28 on your calendars for a mid-afternoon party with our lively Membership Committee. We can all have some fun as we celebrate our ever-expanding community.

### *Music Committee*

**Many, many thanks** to the musicians of the Madrigal; we could never do it without you.

**Come and join your voice with us!** Choir rehearsal is on Wednesday at 7:00 pm. We invite you to come and sing with us!

**Folk Orchestra** rehearses at 8:15pm on Wednesdays. Any level of expertise is welcome!

**Special Music:** We want you to share your musical gifts with us! If you would like to perform special music during the service, please contact Sharon. Solos, Duets, Groups, welcome!

**Christmas Eve Special Music.** If you would like to perform for our Christmas Eve service, please talk to Sharon Delgadillo.

Contact Sharon if you have any questions.

There will be a Zen meditation mini retreat, 8am to 3pm at the Fellowship hall, on December 10th.

Direct questions to: [ohioberg@gmail.com](mailto:ohioberg@gmail.com)

-Steve Berg

### *Social Action In Action*

**WRITE FOR RIGHTS** is an annual international campaign to speak up for those who are suffering injustice and human rights abuse. The Urgent Action Network is a group of Amnesty International supporters who write letters throughout the year on behalf of human rights abuse. These letters are sent to world leaders and by helping to shine an international spotlight on the people and situations have consistently achieved results. Amnesty International provides Write for Rights organizers with sample letters for every case. Participants can simply spend a few minutes signing copies of prepared letters, bring a laptop and compose and send short emails, or type or handwrite their own letters based on the information provided. Nothing is required to participate except a desire to have an impact toward protecting human rights.

Write for Rights will meet in Wooster at Sure House Coffee Roasting Company, 151 S. Market St. on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to noon. Everyone is invited to join in the world's biggest human rights event. For more information visit [www.write.amnestyusa.org/about/](http://www.write.amnestyusa.org/about/).

**DECEMBER OPEN PLATE COLLECTION:** Last December, our generous Open Plate donations to the Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank provided over 3500 meals for hungry seniors, working families, and children in our area! The Food Bank is a Charity Navigator 4 Star Charity, giving tangible help to our neighbors who are in need. Once again this year, on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18**, we will collect donations for the Food Bank, where even one lonely dollar can feed four people! It's the season for holiday giving and a fine opportunity to support a very worthy cause.

**PEOPLE TO PEOPLE SUNDAY** is **DECEMBER 11**. This is the annual case food drive to help stock the People to People Ministries pantry in anticipation of the upcoming holidays when children who might otherwise receive free or reduced lunches are at home, placing an added strain on an already tight food budget.

Please consider making a monetary donation to allow the purchase of those items most needed by those less fortunate. The prices of some cases of food most commonly purchased are: peanut butter \$30; grape jelly \$16; tuna \$27; hot dogs \$28; macaroni & cheese \$9; tomato soup \$11; chicken noodle soup \$13; spaghetti sauce \$12; applesauce \$18; fruit juice \$9; dry cereals \$30. Checks can be made payable to People to People.

### *All Things Green*

**OUR GREEN SANCTUARY TEAM** is in the process of planning programs and activities for the coming year. We have selected food and clean water as the theme. Watch this space, look for posters, listen for announcements and then plan to join us as we explore food insecurity, food waste, wild plants, meatless meals and clean water issues.

### **OPTIONS: Alternative Gift Market**

The representatives from the four churches, including the UUFWC, that organize the Wooster area Alternative Gift Market (AGM) decided to cancel this year's market due to time and other limitations. **HOWEVER**, you do have two options:

- 1) Order your gifts that provide help throughout the world online. These are the same projects you would find at the AGM. Go to <http://alternativegifts.org/> to review the projects and place your order.
- 2) Volunteer to help organize the AGM for 2017. If you would like to be involved, please contact Mary Wicks for more information ([wicksfam@ssnet.com](mailto:wicksfam@ssnet.com) or 330.317.4681).

**THE UFWC CHOIR** rehearses on Wednesdays at 7:00. Folk Orchestra rehearses after choir at 8:15. New people are always welcome.

**BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** will meet on December 4 at 7pm. The book will be *The Third Reconstruction* by William Barber.

**December Birthdays:**

Ashley Baxstrom  
Tim Borham  
Michael Russo  
Herb Spencer  
Brian Grimsley  
Ewen Albright  
Morgan Bostdorff-O'Rourke  
Doug Hurt

**December Anniversaries:**

12/6 Cristia Sullens

We'd like to add your birthday or anniversary to the list. Please contact the office or Juan Gross.

This newsletter is printed monthly, both on paper and online. Please let the office know if you would like to receive this newsletter via email (instead of paper) or if you wish to unsubscribe: [fellowship@uufwc.org](mailto:fellowship@uufwc.org)

**THE HUMANIST GROUP** will meet the first and third Sundays at 11 am. Contact Skip Nault or Jason Ferrell.

**EARTH CENTERED GROUP** meets most second and fourth Sundays after second service. Contact Lindsay Walker or Doris Cannon.

**SCRABBLE NIGHTS:** Usually meets the 2nd Sundays from 7 to 9:30PM. No meeting in November. Bring a game and maybe a snack. Ken McDonald.

**ZEN MEDITATION** meets on Mondays at 7:00.

**INNER PEACE YOGA** meets Mondays at 6.

**UU UKE GROUP** meets the second Friday of every-other month, at 7:00, starting in January. Ukuleles only, and any level of expertise.

The events shown on this page are just a part of what goes on at the UFWC.

If you're looking for a specific activity, or if you want to know when a particular group or committee meets, go to the Fellowship website, [uufwc.org](http://uufwc.org), and look at the calendar.

### *Library News*

Listed below are two new UUFWC library titles accompanied by descriptions from the books' back covers:

#### ACTIVE HOPE: HOW TO FACE THE MESS WE'RE IN WITHOUT GOING CRAZY

By Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone 303.4 Macy 2012

“The challenges we face can be difficult even to think about. Climate change, the depletion of oil, economic upheaval, and mass extinction together create a planetary emergency of overwhelming proportions. *Active Hope* shows us how to strengthen our capacity to face this crisis so that we can respond with unexpected resilience and creative power. Drawing on decades of teaching an empowerment approach known as the *Work That Connects*, the authors guide us through a transformational process informed by mythic journeys, modern psychology, spirituality, and holistic science. This process equips us with tools to face the mess we're in and play our role in the collective transition, or Great Turning, to a life-sustaining society.”

#### THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING: CAPITALISM VS. THE CLIMATE By Naomi Klein

363.738 Klei 2014

“FORGET EVERYTHING YOU THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING. The really inconvenient truth is that it's not about carbon – it's about capitalism. The convenient truth is that we can seize this existential crisis to transform our failed economic system and build something radically better.

In her most provocative book yet, Naomi Klein, author of *The Shock Doctrine* and *No Logo*, tackles the most profound threat humanity has ever faced: the war our economic model is waging against life on earth.”

### *A Look at the Year Ahead*

**General Assembly** 2017 is in New Orleans! June 21- 25, 2017. Let the Good Times Roll!

**Summer Institute** will be July 9 - 15, 2017 at Oberlin College. The Theme Speaker is Sheila Schuh, DRE at 1st Unitarian Church of Rochester NY. The theme is *Beyond Lip Service: The Courage to Communicate UU Values*.



# December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office Hours: Rev Strawn: Tu/Th 1-5 pm , Wed 6-9 pm Chelsea, DRE: Sun 8:30- 1 pm , Tu 5-8 pm Anne, Office: MWF: 9 am - 2 pm						
9:30am - RE Classes	6pm - Inner Peace Yoga	6 6:30pm - Board meeting	6 pm - pageant rehearsal	7pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics		10 am - Christmas decorating - recycled crafts workshop
9:30 & 11 am - Spiritual Sleepwalking - Steve Cook	7pm - Membership committee		7pm - Choir rehearsal 8:15pm - Folk Orchestra	7pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics		7 am - 3 pm: Zen Retreat
11am - Humanist Group	7pm - Zen Meditation					9 am - Journeying Group
7 pm- Book Group						
9:30am - RE Classes	6pm - Inner Peace Yoga	13	6 pm - pageant rehearsal	7pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics		
9:30 & 11 am - Putting Christ in Christmas - Rev. Strawn	7pm - NAACP meeting		7pm - Choir rehearsal 8:15pm - Folk Orchestra	7 pm - Leadership Development team		10 am - Pageant Dress rehearsal
11am - Social Action 11 am - Finance meeting 12:15pm - Earth-centered group	7pm - Zen Meditation			7 pm - Socrates Café		
7 pm - Scrabble Night						
People to People						
9:30 - Strawn & 11 am - Holiday Pageant	6pm - Inner Peace Yoga	20	7pm - Choir rehearsal	7pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics		7 pm -Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
11am - Humanist Group	7pm - Zen Meditation		8:15pm - Folk Orchestra			
10 am - Christmas Service- Strawn	6pm - Inner Peace Yoga	27		7pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics		
	7pm - Zen Meditation					

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County  
is a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

**How to Find Us:** We are located at 3186 Burbank Road, in Wooster, 330-262-9194.

After Labor Day through Memorial Day we meet on Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

In the Summer, June through Labor Day, we meet only at 10:00 a.m.

**Minister:** Rev. V. Elaine Strawn, email: minister @ uufwc.org

**Director of Religious Education:** Chelsea Churpek: dre @ uufwc.org

**Board of Directors:** Tony Beery, president; Peter Schantz, vice president; John Waldman, secretary;  
Adam Keating, Tom Gross, David Francis, Cherrill Wertz, Gail Woosley, past president.

**Office Administrator:** Anne Wilson, email: fellowship @ uufwc.org

**Youth Ministry Coordinator:** Dawn Frank, email: ycmc @ uufwc.org

**Membership Coordinator:** Karen Skubik, email: karen.uufwc @ gmail.com

**Newsletter Editor:** Juan Gross: newsletter @ uufwc.org. The newsletter deadline is the 17th of every month.

**Congregational Group Email:** Address email to: uufwc @ googlegroups.com One email reaches nearly everyone!

There is a delay while messages are moderated. To join the group, email the office: fellowship @ uufwc.org

**Office Hours:**

Rev. Dr. Elaine Strawn: Tuesday, Thursday, 1-5 pm and Wednesday 6-9 pm.

Anne Wilson, Office Administrator: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9 am -2 pm.

Chelsea Churpek, Director of Religious Education: Sunday 8:30-1 pm and Tuesday 5-8 pm.

Dawn Frank, Youth and Campus Ministries Coordinator: Tuesday 5-8 pm.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County  
3186 Burbank Road  
Wooster, Ohio 44691

[www.uufwc.org](http://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*