

BARE BONES Edition of the September 2016 UUFBF Newsletter.

Next October, we'll be back in style – I promise.

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Sept. 4 The last Small Group Ministry

Sept. 11 ***Our traditional Welcome Back Water Ceremony*** - Please bring a sample of water to represent your travels this summer, whether physical, intellectual or spiritual. We'll take time to share what those travels have been as we rededicate ourselves to our congregational purpose. **Service Leader: Jen Spicer**

Sept 18 Kirk House, Director of the Steuben County Historical Society will speak about the grim history of the Ku Klux Klan in our area. **Service Leader: Jeni Paquette**

Sept 25 **5th Anniversary Celebration** of the dedication of the bldg. A History of the Fellowship will be presented and it will be a potluck celebration after; so bring a dish! Former members will be invited!

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To anyone that is attending the Water Ceremony this Sunday, COULD YOU PLEASE BRING A SMALL SNACK CONTRIBUTION! The Hosting List will be up and running in the October Newsletter. THANK YOU!

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CAROLYN'S COLUMN

I've been thinking about the Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr (who is definitely worth Googling). It hasn't yet made me serene, but I think it may have prevented me from becoming less functional. It begins thusly:

*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.*

There is more, but this is what I think of as the prayer. I'll put the capital G word aside. I think it is a profound and useful prayer, and I hardly like anything; as evidenced by the fact that I have issues with the seven principles. I infer that by 'change,' he means improve—it is too easy to wreck stuff. At one summer service, we talked about predestination. I think the prayer pertains to that. I've been applying it in my personal life, and I think it can help in the "life" of our Fellowship has a whole.

Organizations are like organisms. In the recent history the Fellowship bit off more than it could chew. Perhaps, few of us over-learned the lesson from that and think we should only sip what it takes to keep a pulse. I think we are a healthy small breed puppy (not a sick golden retriever). We can do significant work now, and we can grow and increase our power. We can continue with good services whilst striving to create better services. We can do work that improves for the larger community, by

which, I mean the whole world. We can even provide a meaningful, learning-filled program for our children, which is currently my most pressing Fellowship-related issue. Please feel empowered to contribute however you ought (this time, I am not thinking of money). You figure it out.

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RE NEWS: Erica Powell has been hired for the Nursery Caregiver position. She is a junior at Mansfield University, majoring in Elementary and Special Education. She begins on September 11.

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A GREAT BIG THANK YOU – to Dick and Marcia Cowles, for donating their lawn mower for use at the Fellowship!

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The Pax Christi Peace Vigil, will take place on the second Monday of the month, the 12th, (since the usual date, the first Monday, is Labor Day). The vigil runs from 5 PM to 5:30 at the corner of Main and Church Streets in Elmira (Wisner Park). Signs are provided, or you can bring your own, as long as it relates to peace.

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