

 **the**
FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester

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SUNDAY SERVICES

November, 2007

November 4

**DAY LIGHT SAVINGS
TIME ENDS**

WHAT TO TELL A NEW UU

Rev. Deborah Mero

We have had a steady flow of newcomers walking in the door. Many of us have been that newcomer at one time or another. I know I have. We all have different questions when we enter a new environment. Let's start exploring some of those questions. **NOTE: Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m. this morning. Remember to set your clocks BACK one hour.**

November 11

THE MYTH OF SELF-RELIANCE

Rev. Deborah Mero

Following Emerson's advice may not be the best way to enhance community or relationships. Why is it that we are so loathe to ask for help or even allow others to come to our aid when we are in need?

November 18

**THANKSGIVING BREAD COMMUNION
AN INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE**

Rev. Deborah Mero

We will share our individual heritage as well as some tasty bread in this intergenerational service. See "The Song of Deborah," p. 2, for more information.

November 25

**THOUGHTS ON GRATITUDE
REFLECTING ON THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

**Lay Led by
Robin Garrett**

This will explore the notion of gratitude and its varied meanings for different people. In place of a sermon, ideas about gratitude will be briefly offered, and then we will have small group discussions so all attending can share their own ideas in small groups. If you have a favorite quotation about gratitude which you would like included, please send it to Robin. Put the word "gratitude" in the subject line.

Services and Babysitting at 9 AM and 11 AM. Religious Education at 9 AM only.

The Song of Deborah

Those of you who have been coming regularly on Sunday morning have found a slightly different experience each week. As I have mentioned aloud on Sundays I am experimenting with the order of worship, trying to find a flow that works just right.

My guess is that some of you are happy with whatever happens and others find it odd or perhaps even disconcerting. I've been told several times that you are quite used to change by now so I shouldn't fret about it. But it does concern me because worship is important to me as I assume it is to you. For me, the order of things matter. Where elements go in the service and how the service is crafted are part of the art of ministry.

My goal for our Sunday mornings together is that we feel we are building community and experiencing something special, apart from the rest of the times we encounter one another. That one hour is sacred time in a sacred space where we go deeper into thoughts that are reflective of who we are and why we are together on this whirling planet. We will sing together, laugh and perhaps once in a while shed a tear, but I hope we all leave having felt something. I will be continually working with the Religious Services Committee to discuss and fine tune the order as we grow together.

As you have heard me say, much of my "job" as your spiritual leader — at least on Sunday mornings — is to tell sto-

ries and to wrestle with vocabulary. But ministry is a shared endeavor; otherwise, it just doesn't happen. So on Sunday November 18 we will share a glimpse of our stories with one another.

One of my favorite services traditionally (for me, anyway) comes on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. It is a "bread communion." You are invited to

"Ministry is a shared endeavor; otherwise, it just doesn't happen."

bring some kind of bread or bread product that reflects your story — your heritage, your upbringing, a special piece of your life. Each person

or family will have a brief moment to share with everyone what that story is and then we will all break bread together, the breads that we have brought to share. Those of you with wheat or gluten allergies are free to bring your wheat free or gluten free breads too. (That is part of your story!) We will be careful to keep them apart from the others.

What I have discovered in doing this service with so many congregations is the diversity of roots and family stories and traditions that we bring to the table and to one another. From Irish soda bread to Russian black

bread to Syrian pita to brown bread in a can, New England style, we hail from all over the map. Some of us have memories of mothers and grandmothers covered with flour baking away. Others of us grew up with Wonderbread! Whether you bake it or buy it, please bring it to share.

Some of you have asked when we will be starting some Adult Religious Education classes. The answer I have for you now is January. Between now and then my calendar has been filled with meeting you in small groups, lots of committee meetings, and learning my way around. I also plan to have some sessions before the holidays for Beginning UU's which will be for newcomers. Stay tuned for more information and dates. In January we will begin with our exploration of Women in the Bible. It has always been a fun class to do for me as well as those who have participated.

For now, enjoy the autumn season which finally seems to have arrived. Breathe deeply of the cool dry air, walk through leaves, enjoy one another, and keep doing the important things you all are doing.

— In Faith,
Deborah

NEW MINISTER PHONE NUMBER (NO LONGER DELIVERING)

Rev. Mero's office phone number is now 610-692-4043. The old number has been disconnected. The pizza orders to our previous number (once used by Domino's Pizza) have stopped. The general phone number for the building remains 610-692-5966.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

How are we doing against our stated goals?

At our leadership retreat in August we named the following goals for the year. We accomplished much against these goals at that meeting and left the goals to drive our work as the year progresses. I believe these are not exclusive of other goals we have, but they do represent the main points we want to spend time on this year, so I'd like to use them to frame my report to the congregation this month and to give some updates of progress to date and next steps.

1. Refine roles and connections between them. We made a lot of progress identifying which items belonged to our minister, which to the board, and which to council at that retreat. We're going to be working on this all year with an expectation that we will alter our by-laws again this spring to reflect decisions made.

Not that much to report directly yet – just know that this is ongoing work that is being addressed regularly at board and council meetings. I will say that board meetings are indeed becoming even more strategic and, other than a couple of committees which still need attention, the operational council is doing great work in keeping us running as well.

2. Address Leadership Training and Volunteerism. Most committees have chairs in place and pretty good membership. There are needs in two committees in particular to finish this for this year – Building and Stewardship. We are working on a better way to get volunteers to take on easy tasks such as coffee and greeting – if you see sign-up sheets, please consider adding your name. We're working toward a fun event in the near future

where we'll ask committees to man a table to describe their activities and needs, so the rest of us can find a place where we can contribute that fits our interests and talents. We're looking into the formal role of volunteer coordinator – perhaps as a volunteer role for now until we can staff it as a paid position. And we have budget for leadership training and are working with Nominating and Membership to start thinking about being more pro-active here.

3. Improve Administration Role and Communication Gathering and Dissemination. Expanding our Administrative Assistant role to Office Administrator as it is today was a good idea, and long overdue. We're blessed to have hired Barbara Robinson for that role. She has hit the ground running and taken a large load off many of us, including Deborah perhaps most of all, as we all take on our new positions. The positive effects of this change have already been felt and have already spilled over into communications. I hope everyone has had a chance to look at our new weekly digest email – another idea that's been long coming but took the focus of Barbara and others to make happen. This will continue to be an area of improvement, but my feeling is that it's already a huge success.

I do intend to keep my promise to hold quarterly town meetings to increase communications between the board and the congregation. I'm just looking for a date in November that doesn't conflict with something else we're doing. Stay tuned for that.

4. Assimilate Minister. We are in the early stages of a new relationship with Deborah that has great promise and has already been great from my view. I've been clear with everyone that we need

to take the time to get to know each other better so that we can do the needed work as trusted colleagues rather than as new acquaintances. Easy to say, difficult to do with so much going on. Neighborhood meetings are now in process, and I trust that everyone is finding them to be a nice way to go a little deeper with Deborah. My feeling is that she also has hit the ground running, although she probably feels a bit overwhelmed, but let's all make sure we reach out and help both Deborah and Ralph get settled with us. Having her own office where she can hang her hat will help enormously. This is now moving ahead full steam. Now that inspectors have approved wiring and plumbing, expect a move in about a month.

5. Get out into the community. Beyond War sessions are bringing people in from outside. Deb is now part of the Ministerial Council and connecting in general with local ministers. The Chili Cook-Off is a great public outreach. Habitat for Humanity work, and our ongoing Safe Harbor work, among other activities, all contribute to this. Also, a good connection with Grove Methodist is being made. They are very active in social justice issues and have active film series and speaker programs with which we can connect. I'm not sure how to measure this area or even what our expectations are, but I believe we're making good progress. It would be good to take a good inventory of what we are doing and set some clear goals going forward.

There's much more than just this to talk about, but I'll leave it at this for now. Keep up the great work everyone!

– Bob Scott, President

REmarks – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

I invite you to take a moment and consider the concept of “covenant.” What is a covenant? With whom have you made one?

If you are a parent, you probably have an unspoken, unwritten covenant with your children: you have promised to care for and protect, to love and nurture, and to educate and help them to become contributing members of society in a way that is fulfilling to them. Perhaps you have also made a silent covenant with the Fellowship – to use your talents, gifts and energy to further the vision of our congregation.

The subject of covenant comes up each fall as we begin new religious education classes and discuss how we will all get along. The students are encouraged to enter into individual classroom covenants that list the behaviors that the children and teachers together decide will promote a respectful, harmonious environment. The guidelines are written on a large piece of poster board, which the children sign to show their commitment.

This year, we got a little push-back from some of our sixth graders. Perhaps feeling a little of their new middle school status, they challenged the need for such an agreement. This got me thinking more deeply about why we go through this ritual each year, and why most of the curricula include covenant-making in their first unit. In the process, I consulted the dictionary, a few websites, and dusted off my knowledge of the Old Testament.

It was not surprising to read that a covenant is a solemn promise to do (or not do) something specified. But I realized that it had never occurred to me that a cov-

enant is one-sided, e.g., I promise that I will do “X” for you, but there is nothing that you must do to merit or maintain that promise. A covenant is not a contract; there is no “this for that.” In classes, “no hitting” often appears on a covenant list. This doesn’t mean, “I won’t hit you as long as you don’t grab the marker I’m using.” It means, “I promise not to hit you. Period.”

Since several of our classes this year involve learning about the Bible, I brought to Children’s Worship the earliest covenant story I know of: the covenant that God makes with Noah to never again bring wholesale destruction upon the earth, and the symbolism of the rain-

bow. (Parents of fifth/sixth graders – here’s a challenge for your child: ask if he/she can find Genesis 9, verses 11-17 in a Bible.) From there, we talked about the meaning and importance of covenanting with each other.

I invite you to start a conversation with your child(ren) about the idea of covenanting. You may find that you have more unspoken covenants in place than you realized. You may come up with ideas for formal covenants. In any case, the dialogue should be interesting.

If you haven’t already done so, I encourage you to read “Even secular parents are religious educators,” an excellent article in the fall *UUWorld* magazine by Rev. Robert Nelson. One section stands out to me in particular as a UU Director of Religious Education. Nelson says, “...because so large a portion of our fellow human beings articulate their own meaning, purpose, and values through their religions, it is essential that our children know as much as possible about those religions: their

beliefs and practices, their literatures and traditions, and their meaning to their practitioners. To be fully engaged members of the human society, they must be religiously literate.”

Coincidentally, she ends with the idea of covenanting with our children, “to be their companions and guides on a magnificent journey in which they know the meaning of transcendence...and recognize the myriad ways in which the rest of humanity has done the same.” May it be so.

– Pam Baxter, DRE

You may find that you have more unspoken covenants in place than you realized.

HELP US KEEP OUR R.E. SPACE CLEAN

We need your help to keep our classrooms ready for religious education on Sundays. Please remove any trash and return the room to the original state you found it in. Furniture should be replaced, fire exits should not be blocked, and food should be disposed of properly. There is a metal trash can next to the snack area that is labeled, “Food Trash.”

A few additional reminders:

- Plastic recycling bins are located near the Food Trash metal can in the snack area.
- Do not bring cleaning supplies from home, as we have our own supply of “Green” products located in the triple sink room.
- Keep all food preparation areas in the snack area clean and free of objects.
- Ensure that all tools, cleaning supplies, etc., are stored properly and away from children.

Thank you for ensuring that our children have a clean, neat space for their religious education.

– The RE Committee

DENOMINATIONAL DOINGS

Were you among the members and friends of the Fellowship who signed the petition that was recently circulated calling for an end to the war in Iraq? If so, you were among the 13,006 Unitarian Universalists across the nation whose names appeared on the petition when Rev. William G. Sinkford presented it to the offices of Speaker Nancy Pelosi, House Minority

Leader John Boehner, and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. "I was overwhelmed by our commitment, as Unitarian Universalists, to make our political leadership turn towards peace," Rev. Sinkford, who is President of the UUA, said in a letter distributed to congregational leaders.

But there's a broader point to be made, and it's this: We are not alone when we speak out against injustice and violence, or against any other situations that violate our purposes and principles, both in this nation and the world. We are part of a vast denominational network that lends strength to our single congregational voice and supports us in numerous ways. Throughout the year, I'll be bringing you news from that network in a regular column.

For now, I want to make you aware of a "Study Action Issue" on peacemaking that came out of the 2006 General Assembly of UU congregations. Member congregations of the UUA adopt these issues for "study" over a period over four years (in this case, 2006-2010), ending generally with a statement of conscience, again voted on at GA. There is opportunity for input from member congregations along the way.

We are part of a vast denominational network that lends strength to our single congregational voice.

Through our actions and programs, we have been participating in the Study Action Issue on peacemaking from the beginning. This fall's "Beyond War" series is just one case in point. What I'd like to do in the coming months, however, is make us a more conscious part of the process and perhaps even contribute our thoughts and ideas on social action related to peacemaking to the UUA.

For starters, I'd suggest that you visit the UU website (www.uua.org). From the homepage, click on Social Justice under "I am interested in" then on "Congregational Study/Action Issues Resource Guide" on the right hand side of the page that comes up. You'll be able to read and/or

download a full copy of the Study Action Issue as adopted by GA and will also be directed to resources for study. Let me know if you have any thoughts on pursuing some of the suggestions on the website. (You can contact me at email: denominational-affairs@uua.org.) Meanwhile, I may contact some of you directly to see how we as a congregation can be more actively involved.

With our growth in numbers over the past few years has come a welcome growth in denominational awareness. Participation in the issues and actions that come out of GA is one more step in that growth. I look forward to exploring not only this issue but other activities and resources from the denomination over the coming year.

– Flo Miller

Denominational Affairs Chair

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

On September 23 and October 14, informational meetings were held on the topic of a possible congregational name change. These meetings had several purposes. The first was to introduce members and friends to the formation by the Board of Trustees of an *ad hoc* committee to explore the possibility of a congregational name change. Committee members are Shelly Case, Diane Cohle, Heidi Frayer, Fatima Patel and Mark Steel (Chair). The meetings also provided a brief history of the Fellowship Movement, the names and words congregations use to describe themselves, and the process used to determine whether or not the congregation will move forward in its exploration. A summary of the topics presented at the meetings will be available in the lobby and on the UFWC website.

The meetings showed us the importance of examining how we relate to each other within our faith community as well as how we interact with and present ourselves to the public. This process will require us to examine why we are members of this religious community, what we mean to each other, and how we can help others interested in a liberal religious tradition find a spiritual home with us. Understanding where we came from and how we describe ourselves will help us as we journey together in this process.

Please do not hesitate to contact a committee member directly, or email the committee at email: name@uua.org.

POINSETTIA AND WREATH FUNDRAISER

Please support the Fellowship's holiday poinsettia and wreath sale by buying plants and wreaths for gifts, for your home or work-place, or for the Fellowship sanctuary. Sign up in advance to get the order you want. The deadline for advanced orders is November 19. Order blanks (below) are also available in the lobby or by email. Contact Pam Sapko at email: poinsettias.

A limited numbers of wreathes, poinsettias and cyclamen will also be available for sale at the Fellowship between and after services on December 2.



ANNUAL POINSETTIA AND WREATH SALE UFWC Holiday Fundraiser



*A beautiful assortment of locally grown poinsettias and handmade wreaths for your holiday decorating or wonderful gifts.
Please pass order form along to your friends and family.*

When: Orders must be received no later than **November 19**. Pickup at the Fellowship **December 2 from 9 am-1 pm**.

How to Order:

- Fill out the order form below.
- Make check payable to the **Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester** or **UFWC**.
- Drop off your order form and check in the box at the Fellowship, or mail them to:
Pam Sapko (address in your directory).
- Or email the form to Pam and pay later. Email: **poinsettias**
- **QUESTIONS?** Call Pam Sapko or email: poinsettias

NAME: Name: Tel: Email:

POINSETTIAS (Note: Specific items not available in all colors)

	Red	White	Pink	Marble <small>Pink With White Edges</small>	Jingle Bells <small>Red/Pink w/ Lg White Spots</small>	Burgund y	Total Qty Each Size	Unit Price	Total Cost
4½ inch pot 1 bloom SAVE!								\$ 6.00	
Three 4½ inch pots								3 for \$ 15.00	
6½ inch pot, 1 plant Branched 5+ Bloom SAVE!								\$ 11.00	
Three 6½ inch pots								3 for \$ 28.00	
7½ inch pot 2 plants, branched SAVE!								\$ 18.00	
Three 7½ inch pots								3 for \$ 45.00	
8½ inch pot 3 plants, branched SAVE!								\$ 22.00	
Three 8½ inch pots								3 for \$ 57	
10 inch pot 5 plants, branched SAVE!								\$ 28.00	
Three 10 inch pots								3 for \$ 75.00	
6½ inch pot Cyclamen SAVE!								\$ 8.00	
Three 6½ inch pots								3 for \$ 20.00	

WREATHES, handmade

Douglas Fir w/White Pine, Cedar, and Pine Cone Accents, 22 in. Ring	\$ 24.00
Optional Red Bow	\$ 4.00

GRAND TOTAL: Make check payable to **Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester** or **UFWC**

WEST CHESTER CHILI COOK-OFF – A HUGE SUCCESS AGAIN!

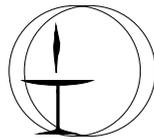
UFWC participated in the 5th annual West Chester Chili Cook-off, sponsored by the West Chester Rotary Club. This event attracts some 70 area organizations which set up colorful and crazy booths to vie for the title of “Best Darn Chili” in Chester County. Several hundred people walk up and down Gay Street to sample and vote for their favorite chili. Phil and Mary Yeager submitted their own fantastic vegetarian chili under the title “Where’s The Beef?” Besides serving up our socially responsible chili, our booth also featured cows with sunglasses, traveling incognito for fear of being included in the chili recipe.

In addition, the Youth Group participated with a display of their own detailing the Heifer Project, talking to all who would listen about the organization. As a result, they raised \$137 (surpassing last year’s total) – enough to buy a llama for someone in need. Way to go Youth Group!

Though our chili was not the winner, by any other measure the event was a huge success. Our youth showed themselves to be terrific ambassadors for the Fellowship, and their energy and enthusiasm bode well for the future of Unitarian Universalism. In addition, hundreds of hungry Chester County chili eaters now know about our church community, and we should get some new visitors as a result.

Participating in this event was a huge undertaking, requiring lots of cooperation and

commitment from several committees and many individuals. One of our greatest strengths is the willingness of people to volunteer their time and energy when asked, and this event was no exception. Thank you to all. We couldn’t have done it without you.



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Three groups are currently running. There are three evening groups – on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. There is also interest in a daytime group. All groups have openings, so if interested contact email: sgm, or fill out a registration form in the lobby, or call Gerry Giess.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting on October 9. The Board devoted considerable time to its ongoing exploration of how to articulate the Fellowship’s mission, including what end results of the congregation’s efforts might be expected.

They also discussed whether there should be a “path to membership” and what that could entail for people wishing to join the Fellowship. In addition, a sub-committee was appointed to review Fellowship policies and procedures. The Board endorsed Rev. Mero’s suggestion that the Board occasionally meet with groups of new members to help them fit into the congregation more easily.

Also the Board decided to schedule bi-monthly meetings with the Fellowship Council in order to work on issues that concern both groups, such as leadership role definition. Jack Butler reported on the work of the Long-Range Building Committee. And lastly, the Board voted to place the Thelma Back Memorial Fund into the Social Action Trust Fund.

The Board of Trustees welcomes comments, questions, and suggestions at anytime. Plans are also being made for “town meetings” where congregants can give the Board their input.

Board members are Bob Scott, President; Craig Talbot, Vice President; Erach Patel, Executive Treasurer; Deanna Koepcke, Secretary; and Jack Butler, Diane Cohle, Fatima Patel, and Sandy Schaal, Trustees. Rev. Deborah Mero and Pam Baxter, Director of Religious Education, also meet with the Board. Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month and are open to all. Monthly Board reports can be accessed at the members section of the UFWC website.

– Deanna Koepcke
Board Secretary

STONES IN THE SAME WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

One of the great things about our social justice projects is the chance to connect with others of faith or similar interests outside of UFWC. The Habitat for Humanity sub-committee and the Beyond War discussion groups are two examples of partnerships with churches of other faiths. While our religious views may differ, we are finding much commonality through social justice. There is interest in partnering with churches and groups of people from a diverse racial and cultural background. If you have any connections to these kinds of groups, we may be able to use your contacts to collaborate on a wide variety of actions to make the world a better place. It is also a way for us to be in relationship with and sensitive to issues affecting groups of people not represented well in our current congregation. As we broaden our relationships, we broaden our understanding. Contact Ed Cohle at email: social-justice-chair.

Disturbing the Peace. The **Beyond War** discussion series continues to challenge us to walk a peaceful path. You may have heard that the Peace Vigils that take place at the courthouse every Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon have begun attracting individuals who seem organized to disrupt this peaceful demonstration. The information in the Beyond War discussion series calls us to react in a peaceful manner despite the physical “nudging” and yelling in your face by the counter demonstrators. The number of people in the vigil has mushroomed from a dozen or so to over one hundred people. The same pattern is now happening at the Phoenixville Peace Vigil which is from 5 to 5:30 p.m. every Friday at Main and Bridge Streets. An even greater number of peaceful demonstrators are needed. The next

few Saturdays are crucial to show the resolve of this peaceful vigil. Please spend an hour of your time helping change our world to a more peaceful one.

Special Movie Presentation. A reminder that the **HBO film *Ghosts of Abu Ghraib* will be shown on Sunday, October 28 from 6-8 p.m.** Pizza will be provided for dinner so you can take the night off cooking. This movie is being shown as part of a nationwide project coordinated by the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. The filmmaker asks critical questions such as how did torture become an accepted practice at Abu Ghraib, did the U.S. government policies make it possible and how much damage did the incident do to our credibility as a defender of freedom and human rights around the world. The images and interviews are extremely intense and are recommended for mature audiences only. We will have a chance to discuss our feelings and thoughts after the movie as well as further actions that can be considered.

Global Warming Interest Group. The West Chester Alliance for Global Warming Awareness, of which the UFWC Global Warming Interest Group belongs, will hold a Step It Up! 2007 rally on Saturday, November 3, 11 a.m. -2 p.m., in West Chester. There will be music. There will be speakers on global warming issues – including candidates and political leaders who have been invited to explain their position and what they plan to do. There will also be informational displays and vendors at booths with green products and services. “Green packs” of CFL’s, cloth bags, and literature will be available.

Please come and be part of the solution. Watch for more an-

nouncements for the exact location, or visit www.stepitup2007.org. Contact the West Chester Alliance at gwalliance@gmail.com

The UFWC Global Warming Interest Group meets the second Thursday of the month, 7 p.m., at the fellowship. All are welcome.

GW Group’s Tip of the Month: Strategically located trees save you \$\$ in energy costs, and all trees absorb CO₂ from the air. Plant a tree to shade your AC unit or on the north side of your house to buffer winter winds. Fall is the best time to plant a tree. Pick up a *Tree Vitalize* pamphlet in the lobby with instructions on tree planting.

Habitat for Humanity. You may have heard that the Habitat for Humanity group has put together a coalition of groups to fund the building of an affordable house in West Chester. Tom Buglio has been key in getting several other churches involved. This group has raised over \$45,000 (thanks to a large donation from the Grove Methodist church) which means that they can break ground. A total of \$80,000 is needed for the entire project. To this end, the share-the-plate collection this month will be donated toward that goal. You can further support Habitat for Humanity by attending the Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by the West Chester University student group on December 2 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Stop in at UFWC anytime between those hours, buy a great meal and listen to some live entertainment. Another chance to eat and contribute to this effort is at Habitat Day at the Stadium Grille on November 14 from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. While not a UFWC event, it does benefit the coalition of groups raising money for the Habitat house. Further details will be forthcoming. Contact Mike Stevens, email: habitat.

YOUTH GROUP

What an unbelievable month! In October, we took an enormous van full of ten youth (and all their stuff) to FallCON in Baltimore. We had the largest contingent of any congregation there.

We served chili and raised money to donate a llama to Heifer International at the West Chester Chili Cook-Off, and we raised funds, spirits, and a big crowd to walk 12K in the Philly AIDS Walk.

Tired yet? No way! Stay tuned for a kickin' Battle of the Bands at UFWC this fall. Join us. We meet Sundays at 10:45 a.m. Questions? E-mail youth-group or talk to Rob Sartain or Kate Cuffari.

THANKSGIVING OPEN HOUSE



Kora and Tilo Stahl are hosting a Thanksgiving Open House on Thanksgiving Day, November 22, starting at 2 p.m. Members and friends are cordially invited. The Stahls will provide turkey and drinks.

R.S.V.P. by November 15 to coordinate a dish to share. Contact the Stahls.

P.S. You should be comfortable around large friendly dogs.

DUST OFF YOUR FAVORITE RECIPES: THE BICARB BISTRO IS COMING!

Dust off your favorite hors d'oeuvres and/or dessert recipes and bring them to the Fellowship for judging at our annual BicarB Bistro Saturday evening, November 10. At this popular event, members and friends prepare their favorite recipes in specified categories; all in attendance then taste and judge them, with prizes awarded to the winners.

In the past, when our membership was smaller, the entries alone provided the equivalent of a meal or at least a light supper for everyone. With our growing membership in recent years, however, some folks have not had the opportunity to taste all the entries. They've had less than their fill and have gone home hungry! We're taking a number of steps this year to prevent that sad occurrence and make this a real gastronomical feast.

First, we encourage all chefs or would-be chefs to enter their hors d'oeuvre and/or dessert recipes. If you wish, you may enter more than one recipe in either or both categories from the same person. The more the better!

Second, we are asking that all in attendance take only a small "taste" of each entry, so everyone has the opportunity to participate in the judging. It would also help if those submitting entries provide an ample number of small portions, doubling or tripling their recipes if that is possible. (Don't make that a condition of submitting an entry, however! Make only your regular recipe if that suits you and your kitchen best.)

Third – and equally important – we are asking that those who do not enter a recipe bring a salad, casserole, main dish or other edible, just as you would at a potluck. They will not be judged – just eaten!

The BicarB Bistro is a great opportunity for members and friends, new and old, to connect and socialize at an all-Fellowship event. We encourage you to attend and participate in whatever way you choose. Hors d'oeuvres and dessert entries should be brought to the Fellowship at 6 p.m., giving set-up crews the chance to number and identify the entries. The event itself will get underway at 6:30, when potluck dishes will also be accepted. There will be no entry fee, but we will ask for donations for beverages. We hope to see you there.

– Mike and Flo Miller, Co-Chairs

CARING COMMITTEE

Need a hug? Get one...honest...by visiting the Caring Committee's table at Coffee Hour after both services on Sunday, November 11. Learn how you can be a "Helping Hand" within our Fellowship community, and see how you can be of service to fellow members and friends.

Also find out new ways that you can ask for assistance from our Fellowship when you, a friend, or family member needs it. So stop by and get a hug. You won't be disappointed.

FALL HIKE



Saturday, November 3, is our fall hike at lovely Ridley Creek State Park.

Meet to carpool at 1:15 p.m. in the outer reaches of the Westtown Village Shopping Center parking lot at the northeast corner of Routes 202 and 926, or 15-20 minutes later in the parking lot near the main park office on Sandy Flash Drive South.

The 2½-hour hike has quite a bit of up and down on the park trails, so it may not be suitable for children under seven. The rain date is Sunday November 4, same time, same place. Please RSVP to Paul Sapko.

LUNCH GROUP

Lunch group will meet on Friday, November 9, at 11:30 a.m. at Panera, located in West Goshen near Shop Rite, at 1103 West Chester Pike. Newcomers are always welcome. Email Linda Sander at lunch-group to be added to the e-mail reminder list. Please try to respond to the e-mail reminder so we can save enough space for everyone. If you don't have e-mail or you change your mind at the last minute, come anyway. Everyone is welcome.

HOLIDAY PARTY HOSTS NEEDED

Every year around the holidays, a few of our members and friends open their homes for some holiday cheer. The hosts provide the beverages, their home, and one dish; the guests provide finger foods; and the Fun & Fellowship Committee coordinates it all (maps, RSVPs, announcements).



You can specify your preference as to primarily adult guests or "children welcome". If you are interested in hosting a party this year, contact Nancy Artus at email: fun. First come, first served. Since we must get all the parties on the calendar and announced in the December *Fellowtarian*, we want to have the parties scheduled by November 4.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING PARTY

DECEMBER 1

It's not too early to start thinking about the holidays. There will be a gingerbread house decorating party at UFWC on Saturday, December 1, from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Bring your own gingerbread house (sold in most craft and grocery stores) and a donation of \$5. Children are welcome – children ages 3-10 must be accompanied by an adult. We will supply the icing, decorations, and snacks. There is no need to be artistic or "crafty".



If you are interested in coming to this event, please e-mail fun, or sign up on the designated sheet in the lobby, so we can plan our supplies. Because of the nature of this event (number of supplies, messiness, room needed for houses), participation is limited to 30 houses. However, several people are welcome to decorate each house.

– Jen Feld
Fun & Fellowship Committee

GAME NIGHT

Our next Game Night is Friday, November 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship building. Everyone is welcome; just bring a dish and a beverage to share as well as any game(s) you would like to play. Dinner is at 6:30 followed by games, usually a little after 7 p.m. Contact Mary Yeager at email: game-night if you have any questions.



EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

NOVEMBER 18 7 – 8:30 PM



The Plot against America by Philip Roth is a novel that tells the story of one family's harrowing encounter with history when Charles Lindbergh defeats FDR for the Presidency, and Jewish Families fear the worst. In 2005, *The Plot against America* won the Society of American Historians prize for "outstanding historical novel on an American Theme for 2003-2004". In the United Kingdom, it won the W. H. Smith Award for the best book of the year making Roth the first writer in the forty-six year history of the prize to win it twice. Our discussion leader for the evening will be Judy Finkel.

Contact Shelly Case or Ruth MacFadyen or email diversity-book-group. All are Welcome

We started this group several years ago with the intent of using books and movies as a springboard to explore and better understand differences in ourselves and others. With that in mind we will select our reading for the months ahead as well as movies for the busy months of December and January. A list of past selections is available on UFWC website.

SIMPLICITY CIRCLE

Our next meeting is November 4, on the usual first Sunday of the month at 12:30 p.m., after the service. We will continue to focus on Genuine Living and examine our lives, asking ourselves, "What does it mean to live genuinely? What are some of the pathways toward reaching our authentic core, and how do we live it out?"

These discussions are significant opportunities for new friends and members to be integrated with our larger membership via a reflective and personable atmosphere. As new members are added, it becomes ever more enriching and stimulating. For example, email exchanges followed soon after the previous meeting, as it seemed difficult to let the thoughts wait until next time. As said by Dr. Johnson, "Our brightest blazes of gladness are commonly kindled by unexpected sparks."

Come and join us. No preparation needed. It's a good group for new-comers, no commitment required, though continuity is best. Any questions or comments contact Heidi Buss at email: simplicity.

– Heidi Buss

COFFEE HOUSE PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF MUSIC

WHEN:

Friday, November 16, 7-9
p.m.

WHERE:

The Fellowship Sanctuary

WHO:

Talented musicians playing acoustic music, 2-3 songs per performer. Sign up 6:30 to 7 p.m. First come first served and performance order randomly selected.

CONTACT:

Judy Perri at email:
coffeehouse

All members and friends are invited to be supporters and/or entertainers.

FOLK SINGING

Folk singing is Saturday, November 17, at 8 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. Bring a munchie, if you wish.

Maps are available in the foyer. Newcomers are always welcome.

We are not a performance group – just some folks who like to get together to sing the songs we love, including folk songs, pop songs and anything else that comes to mind. Contact Steve at email: folk-singing.



FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

All email addresses @ufwc.org unless otherwise noted.

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| Nov 1 | Thu | Caring Committee. 1-3 p.m. Sharon Mayer-Conroy's home. Email: caring
Religious Services Comm. 7:30 p.m. Office. Email: religious-services |
| Nov 2 | Fri | Potluck & Game Night. 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 10. |
| Nov 3 | Sat | Step It Up! 2007 Rally 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Place in West Chester TBA. See p. 8.
Fall Hike. Ridley Creek State Park. Meet 1:15 p.m. Westtown Village parking lot. See p. 10. |
| Nov 4 | Sun | Daylight Savings Time Ends. 2 a.m. this morning. Move your clocks BACK one hour.
Enhanced Coffee Hour. After both services. RE area downstairs. See Oct. <i>Fellowtarian</i> p. 4.
Fun and Fellowship Committee. 12:30 p.m. Sanctuary. Contact Nancy Artus, email: fun
Simplicity Circle. 12:30 p.m. Fireplace Room. See p. 11. |
| Nov 5 | Mon | Beyond War Series. Final session. 7-9 p.m. See September <i>Fellowtarian</i> p. 6. Email: beyond-war |
| Nov 6 | Tue | Finance Committee. 7:30 p.m. Office. Contact Erach Patel, email finance |
| Nov 7 | Wed | RE Committee. 7:00 p.m. OWL room. Contact Pam Baxter, email: dre |
| Nov 8 | Thu | Global Warming Interest Group. 7 p.m. Fireplace Room. Contact email: global-warming
Social Justice Comm. 7:15-9 p.m. Office. Email: social-justice |
| Nov 9 | Fri | Lunch Group. 11:30 a.m. See p. 10. |
| Nov 9-10 | Fri-Sat | RE Spirit Play Training. 2 pm — next day, Sanctuary and entire Downstairs. Email: RE |
| Nov 10 | Sat | Bicarb Bistro. 6:30 p.m. (6 p.m. if entering a dish). See p. 9. |
| Nov 11 | Sun | Caring Committee Information Table. After both services. See p. 9.
Safe Harbor Dinner. Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. To help, contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: safe-harbor |
| Nov 13 | Tue | Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Office. All are welcome. |
| Nov 14 | Wed | Habitat Day at the Stadium Grill. 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. See p. 8. Email: habitat
New Comer/Member Orientation. 7 p.m. Contact Rev. Mero, email: minister |
| Nov 15 | Thu | Thanksgiving Open House RSVP Deadline. See p. 9. |
| Nov 16 | Fri | Coffee House. 7-9 p.m. (Performers sign up 6:30-7 p.m.) Sanctuary. See p. 11. |
| Nov 17 | Sat | Folk Singing. 8 p.m. at the home of Steve and Linda Sander. See p. 11. |
| Nov 18 | Sun | Exploring Diversity Book Discussion Group. 7-8:30 p.m. Fireplace Room. See p. 11. |
| Nov 19 | Mon | Poinsettia and Wreath Order Deadline. See p. 6. |
| Nov 22 | Thu | Thanksgiving Open House. 2 p.m., home of Kora and Tilo Stahl. RSVP by Nov. 15. See p. 9. |
| Nov 24 | Sat | Lunch for the Needy. Provided by our Fellowship at the Salvation Army. To help, contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: salvation-army |
| Nov 27 | Tue | Council Meeting. 7 pm, office. Contact Craig Talbot, email: vice-president |
| Nov 28 | Wed | New Comer/Member Orientation. 7 p.m. Contact Rev. Mero, email: minister |
| Nov 29 | Thu | Religious Services Comm. 7:30 p.m. Office. Contact Email: religious-services |
| Dec 1 | Sat | Gingerbread House Decorating Party. 1:30-4:30 p.m. See p. 10. |
| Dec 2 | Sun | Habitat Spaghetti Dinner. 5-8 p.m. at UFWC. See p. 8. Contact Mike Stevens, email: habitat |

Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

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| Small Group Ministry | Mon., Tue., and Thu. groups have openings, and other groups may start. See p. 7. |
| Youth Group | Most Sunday mornings. 10:45 a.m. OWL/Youth Group rm. Email: youth-group |
| Choir Practice | Thursdays, 7:15 p.m., in the sanctuary. Contact Barbara Kovacs, email: choir |
| Yoga Classes | Thursdays 6:15-7:15 p.m., downstairs. Contact Mira Tryon, email: yoga |
| Peace Vigils | Saturdays 11 a.m. to noon. West Chester Courthouse. See p. 8. |