

 **the**
FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester

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SUNDAY SERVICES

December, 2007

December 2

MAKING A LIST

Rev. Deborah Mero

It is the time of year for list making. What have we put on our lists? And what might we take off those lists?

December 9

“A REPUBLIC IF YOU CAN KEEP IT”

Rev. Deborah Mero

That was the answer that Benjamin Franklin gave to a lady who asked upon the close of the Constitutional Convention whether we would have a republic or a monarchy. We have work to do if we are to keep it.

December 16

A FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Rev. Deborah Mero

Our intergenerational holiday service that reminds us that traditions across the spectrum focus on the light during the darkest season of the year.

December 23

CAROLS, STORIES, AND READINGS

Lay Led by Sue Johnston

10 AM Single Service Only

Deck the halls and all joy to the world! We will sing carols, discover the stories behind some of them, and share readings related to the spirit of the holidays. SINGLE SERVICE AT 10 AM.

Monday December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Rev. Deborah Mero

5 P.M. Evening Service

Please bring the family and join us all for a warm Christmas Eve Service. We will be treated with wonderful music by our Choir, some things old and traditional, some things new and different, and lots of candle light.

December 30

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Lay Led

10 AM Single Service Only

Last spring we celebrated the largest graduating class of seniors in our Fellowship history. This Sunday we will repeat a long standing tradition of inviting our recently graduated seniors to participate in a panel discussion to share their new knowledge and explore some fundamental questions — like, “What is the meaning of life?”, “Where do you buy coffee when the closest WaWa is 500 miles away?”, “How do you like your new job?”, “How is dining hall food?”, “How often do you do laundry?”, and “Have you ever had occasion to present your liberal religious beliefs to an illiberal classmate?” Audience participation is encouraged. A celebration of donuts will follow the service. SINGLE SERVICE AT 10 AM.

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

The Song of Deborah

The day started out warm but wet. Then the temperature started falling and will continue to do so into the night. Winter is coming. The holiday season is now upon us in full force. My days and evenings have been filled with doing things and meeting people and continuing the process of settling in. One day at a time.

I'd like to thank all of you who took time to host or attend a gathering so that we could have some quality face to face time and I could learn something about you. And a hearty thanks to those who took the time and effort to write down something to share with me about yourself. I was an honor to be shown that glimpse of who you are as individuals. The invitation is still open.

Along with the flurry of activities I have been watching the leaves change color and fall to the ground. I have been watching and listening. And the emotions that wash over me like waves have to do with gratitude and contentment. I am happy to be here with you. I am happy to have a warm house and good food to eat. I am happy to be doing work that I love.

And with that contentment comes awareness of the fact that there are so many people in so many places that struggle to make it through one day with enough to eat or a clean warm place to sleep. And I know there are also many who seem on the surface to have everything while inside their heads and hearts they are struggling with depression, with anxiety, with fears. And the coming of the holiday season

magnifies everything. Please be gentle with yourselves. Make room for comfort and joy wherever you can.

'Tis the season for reaching out, for extending ourselves to others, for observing the traditions that bind us, family, community, and society. The season would not be the same if we don't keep up our usual traditions. Yet we sometimes continue some of them

long after they hold any meaning and don't realize that we don't have to always do the same thing if it no longer brings satisfaction. Holiday time is when we really shift into that gear. It is a healthy practice to take a look at our traditions and hold on to the ones that continue to nurture us and let go of the ones that don't.

For those who need to let go of some past traditions, now is a good time to find or create some

*'Tis the season
for reaching out,
for extending our-
selves to others*

new ones. It can be amazingly transformative. I look forward to figuring out what my traditions will be in West Chester. I look forward to putting up decorations and lights in a new house, baking, cooking, reading and hearing stories, making new friends and learning what the holiday traditions are in my new community. And I know I will be lighting candles. Lots of candles. For joys, for losses, for light, for warmth, to observe traditions, and to make things look different and glowing and mysterious.

Ralph and I are looking forward to our first holiday season with all of you. May the candles you light this season bring the light of love into your spirit. And may you find ways to be generous and share that love with others.

Peace on earth, good will to all . . .

— *Deborah*

NEW MUSICAL GROUP FORMING

Calling all singers and musicians — are you interested in learning new music and being part of a group that will explore our new UU Supplemental Hymnal?

We are forming a new musical group for people interested in learning the music in the new UU Supplemental Hymnal called *Singing the Journey*. Members of the group would perform and/or lead the singing of new hymns once a month during the services.

Instrumentalists and singers are needed, as well as those who may want to come learn the music but may not want to get up in front. Many of the songs are sung in unison, and others have harmonies that can be added too. Those playing guitar, keyboard and percussion are needed and other instrumentalists are welcome.

Our congregation will order the new hymnals shortly. The time commitment for this group is not yet determined, but we anticipate that we will get together to practice prior to the service each week we perform. Abby McGillivray will lead the new group. If you have not yet indicated your interest please contact Abby or Marie Steel.

FROM THE PRESIDENT WELCOME, REJOICE AND COME IN!

One of the unspoken parts of my job description as Board President is to make sure I get a chance to meet and chat with all of you over coffee on Sunday mornings. It's really part of every members job description actually, and certainly something we stress among the leadership. We try to pay particular attention to new faces in the crowd, wanting to make sure you feel welcome and connected, and that we're in fact satisfying whatever urge caused you to walk through our doors in the first place.

It's my favorite part of the job, even though it's not written in. It's also difficult to pull off in such a dynamic environment as ours. There are always more people to try to meet than there's time to do it, and often folks I've wanted to introduce myself to have left quickly before I had the chance. There's always someone for me to catch up with on some fellowship business that didn't get done during the week. Also, I'm somewhat shy so I have to push myself a bit to approach people I haven't met and get a conversation started.

But when I do meet new people and learn their stories of how they came to find UFWC and come in the door to check us out, it's among the most enjoyable times I spend here. I'm always reminded in the back of my mind of when Susie and I first walked through the doors at our Franklin Street building and how I was met by Harry and Loretta Simon, that dynamic membership committee back then, and how good they made us feel about being here and coming back. And I also remember that Harry always made sure to stress to me about how

wonderful this place was and would be for us.

All organizations are always looking for more interested members and friends to help them with their mission, and we're no different. So of course I've got the interest of the Fellowship in mind when I work hard to make sure new visitors and members feel welcome and connected, that they return often and hopefully get involved as deeply as we are and that they spread the word to their friends too. That's the unwritten job description's purpose.

But Harry's clear message to me, and my message to you, is that it's not only for our benefit that I'm so happy to see you here, but I'm truly happy for you that you decided to walk in and stay, and to come back. I cannot tell you easily how much this place has meant to me over the years as a haven in a complex world, a place to hear and think about messages of hope and justice, a

place to explore my own religious beliefs deeply and without fear, a place to expose my children to new ideas and push them on a path of discovery, a place to meet and spend time with amazing, talented, friendly and extremely caring people, and a place to pitch in and make a difference in that mission which I in fact share and always have.

So if you're somewhat new here and have for whatever reason come through our door a few times or even just once, Welcome! You are one of the luckiest people in town to have discovered these same great people and this same great Fellowship that I found many years ago. You're in for a great ride! And if you see a shy guy standing with a cup of coffee and a yellow President's name tag on – come tell me your story. I can't wait to hear it.

— Bob Scott, President

If you see a shy guy standing with a cup of coffee and a yellow President's name tag on – come tell me your story. I can't wait to hear it.

YOUTH GROUP

We spent November planning and playing, getting all fired up for our Battle of the Bands concert on the 30th. All of our proceeds will be donated to Habitat for Humanity through UFWC. We're starting this month on a serious note with a discussion about the nature of the soul. Then get your sleeping bags and slippers ready for our all-night movie marathon in the UFWC sanctuary on Friday, December 14. We're also brainstorming for the December 30 Sunday service with our alumni, to see what adventures life holds after high school and YRUU.

Join us. Meetings are Sundays at 10:45 a.m. Questions? E-mail youth-group or talk to Rob Sartain or Kate Cuffari.

REmarks – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

All of us – at all our different ages – make up our Fellowship community. Part of Rev. Deborah's vision is to generate more interaction between the age groups, and one of the logical places to do that is in intergenerational services.

At the intergenerational service on October 21, we explored being a "Peaceful Presence" – a topic of importance and meaning to both adults and children, since intimidation occurs across all age groups, from bullying at school to intimidation in the workplace. When we broke into small discussion groups, children heard adults' experiences with bullying and adults heard children's experiences. From conversations after the service, I know that the sharing was valuable for all.

"Intergens," as we sometimes refer to them, are not just for children; they are not simplified adult services. They are different. A different form of worship, which we all can enjoy, appreciate and benefit from. These special services let us model for our children what an adult UU service looks and feels like, they let the children know that they are truly a part of our faith community, and they give families the opportunity to worship together. Even more, they provide regular opportunities for us all to worship together, to share experiences and insight, and to learn from one another. They help us weave the fabric of community.

In addition, at present and for the near future, this is the children's best opportunity to see and hear Rev. Deborah; to get to know her and what she stands for, and to understand that she is a minister for them as well as for the adults.

While it may be tempting to think of intergenerational Sundays as days off either because there are no RE classes for the children that day, or because the impression is that these are children's services, I invite you to make a point of attending and experience what occurs when we create space for something different to happen. There are valuable "intangibles" that pass between and among those of different age groups and generations when we meet together for worship that would not transpire otherwise.

Thanks to everyone who joined us downstairs for the Enhanced Coffee Hours after the services on November 4, and who took time to browse the room name suggestions and vote on them. The voting was nearly

unanimous in approval of the RE Committee's proposals (96%), with some helpful suggestions for improvement: use the person's entire name, and keep the word "fireplace" in the designation for the front room. The Youth Group voted to designate the YRUU room the "James Reeb Youth Room."

The new Snack Area downstairs is nearly completed! Thanks to Wayne Bullaughey, Ralph Mero, Steve Sander, Jim Hynes, John Gribbin, and Jon McCormack for their work on installation, and to Cyndy Bullaughey and Linda Sander for all their work in scoping out the space and selecting the materials.

— Pam Baxter
Director of Religious Education

CHOIR

The UFWC Choir is thriving, and we are always welcoming new members. If you are interested in singing with the Choir, rehearsals are every Thursday evening at 7:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will begin rehearsals for the Christmas Eve service on Thursday, November 29. If you would like more information, please email choir director Barbara Kovacs at choir. Please join us!

ANNUAL SERVICE AUCTION A SUCCESS

Thanks are due to everyone who made our 20th annual Service Auction a great success. The auction is an important fundraiser for the Fellowship's budget, and we're pleased to report that this year we raised over \$7,000. Fellowship members and local businesses donated over 150 items and services for the on-line and live auctions, and roughly 60 people came out for an evening of fun, food, and frenzied bidding. The auction committee thanks Joe Felice, our auctioneer for a second year in a row, and all those who participated in the event. We're already looking forward to next year.

— The Service Auction Committee

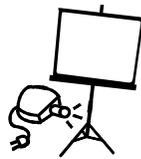
STONES IN THE SAME WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

This is a busy time of year when we look forward to spending time with family and friends. It's also a time to reflect on how lucky we are to live in a country that has the possibility of changing the world for the better. This won't happen without the dedicated actions, no matter how small, of all of us. Take a moment to read through this column and pick out something you can do.

A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD

The **Beyond War discussion series** has concluded with the formal curriculum. Members of the group were so inspired by the materials and lively discussions that they decided to keep meeting on a monthly basis.

The group will view the film ***Ghosts of Abu Ghraib*** which will be shown on **Monday December 10 from 7-8:30 p.m.** The film helps explain how our government and military created the conditions which led to the abuse at Abu Ghraib. If you missed this informative movie the first time around, here is your chance. The film is free to all. Bring a friend.



You are still needed at the **Peace Vigil** every Saturday from 11 a.m.-noon by the courthouse at the corner of High and Market Streets. Take an hour of your time to make a statement about the need for peace in the world and the end of the war in Iraq. The Phoenixville Peace Vigil is from 5 to 5:30 p.m. every Friday at Main and Bridge Streets in Phoenixville.

GLOBAL WARMING INTEREST GROUP

The Global Warming Group of UFWC Social Justice Committee will sell re-usable canvas grocery bags and compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) at cost in the sanctuary after each service in November. This is not a fundraiser; the group is making these items available to facilitate "green" practices among members and friends. More information will be available about the positive aspects of using bags and CFLs during the sales. (Note: CFLs should be disposed of as hazardous waste. Chester County government sponsors hazardous waste collections four times per year at various locations in the county: www.chestercounty.org).

GW group's Tip of the Month: Here are some tips for a "cool" Holiday!

- Buy a live tree and plant it outside after the Holidays. You can enjoy it and breathe easier long after Christmas is over! Too much work? Buy an artificial tree and "recycle" it every year!

- Need new Christmas lights? Purchase LED (light emitting diodes) lights, they consume a lot less electricity and last longer.

- Try locally grown organic food for your Holiday meals. No artificial fertilizers derived from petroleum products are used and transportation impacts are minimized.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

The Habitat for Humanity coalition is going all out to raise money to build an affordable house. What looked like an impossible goal is now within our grasp. A coalition of groups throughout the area has formed to make this goal a reality. You can help by participating in one or all of the following:

Habitat's Italian Bistro! Pasta, salad, bread, entertainment ... Come to UFWC on Sunday, December 2 for a great spaghetti dinner and support Habitat for Humanity.

Arrive anytime between 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. to enjoy great food and a variety of musical acts. This event is co-sponsored with the West Chester University Habitat students group.

Cost: Students \$5, Adults \$8, family (4-6 persons) \$25.



GOT STUFF? Got stuff to get rid of that has some value? Don't have the time or interest to do it? Let our Habitat sub-committee help! We now offer to any UFWC member or friend the service of selling your stuff on-line. Give us the information about what you want to sell. We will advertise it on the web and sell it for you. You will donate a minimum of 50% of the selling price to our Habitat for Humanity fund. You are encouraged to consider donating a higher percentage (up to 100%). Contact Tom Buglio.

SOCIAL ACTION TRUST FUND

The UFWC Social Action Trust Fund was the recipient of \$370 from the Thelma Back Memorial Fund and a \$200 private donation in October. Contributions to the Alice Bullen Memorial Fund, which

SOCIAL JUSTICE (CONT'D)

now are over \$1300, will also be donated to the fund.

The UFWC Social Action Trust fund was established in 1975. Its purpose is to raise funds and make grants to deserving social action projects originating in West Chester. Each year five percent of the value of the fund is available for grants. The grants for 2006 and 2007 were donated toward the Fellowship's co-sponsorship of a Habitat for Humanity house to be built in West Chester. To make a donation, write a check to UFWC, and write "Social Action Trust Fund" in the memo line.

UUSC HOLIDAY CARDS

Beautiful UUSC greeting cards are now available after each service through December 9. The price is \$12.00 for a package of 10 cards. Proceeds go to UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee), our charity. You can see the cards on the UFWC website.

U. U. SERVICE COMMITTEE (UUSC) UPDATE

As the Holidays approach, it's time for all UUs to reflect on how much we have to be thankful for, but at the same time how much others don't have. In that spirit, we will again this season sponsor a "Guest at Your Table", so it's time to reflect, discuss, and give our support both spiritually and monetarily. We can do that by joining (or rejoining) the only Human Rights organization that begins with "U.U."— that's the U.U. Service Committee (UUSC).

Membership means that we support justice by increasing our numbers to speak with one voice, and we believe in human rights by helping UUSC fund mostly forgotten people here in the U.S. and abroad.

Tom Townsend, the UUSC regional coordinator, went to New Orleans on a fact-finding trip in mid September. He saw firsthand the devastation, and interacted with several UUSC grant recipients. Most were poor, uneducated African-American women, who were the most intelligent and committed individuals imaginable! They simply will not give up until justice is served, and they are very grateful to us for our meager support. What's unjust? The proposal to raze ALL public housing even though about 2/3 of it is habitable with no, or very minor, repairs. Or the city's move to seize all property on which the grass is not cut even though the owners are not allowed to live in it and have moved elsewhere. And home owners must still pay their mortgages even though the city has torn down their houses. The lack of justice is outrageous! But UUSC is there, and we can be proud.

UUPLAN is off and running with seed money from UUSC!

What's that? The U. U. PA Legislative Advocacy Network. OK, but what's that? PA has become the twelfth state to form such an organization to band U. U.s together to advocate for legislation in the state capitol with one voice. The opposition has done this for years—and with obvious success. Now it's time for us to speak out. The organizational meeting was held at the Harrisburg church at the end of September with an attendance of 23, including representatives from 12 congregations and three ministers, including our own Rev. Mero. Two topics were chosen for the first year. You can visit the website at www.uuplan.org. Stay tuned for more.

EQUAL EXCHANGE PRODUCTS

Don't forget to buy fair-traded Equal Exchange coffee, tea, and chocolate after the service. You can enjoy great products while you help small farmers in the developing world build a better future for themselves and their families.



HELP THE HUNGRY IN WEST CHESTER

The time is coming again to renew our commitment to helping provide meals to hungry folks in our area. Our Fellowship provides dinner at the Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter every second Sunday of the month and lunch for the Salvation Army every fourth Saturday.

Every January, people from our Fellowship sign up to help out, and the year's schedule is made up. It's an easy way to make a difference! Many families participate, particularly at the Salvation Army, where there is no age requirement. For more details about the program, check out the UFWC website or contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy at email: safe-harbor.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The Board of Trustees held its monthly meeting on November 13. Board members continued their ongoing discussion exploring what a mission statement for the Fellowship might sound like, and how to find the best process for developing such a statement. Other topics included a plan to gather all Fellowship documents into a central location, and a review of policy and procedure changes recommended by a Board subcommittee. President Bob Scott asked Board members to review the Fellowship's long-range plan. In addition, the Board discussed the Finance Committee's recommendation to share pledge records with the minister; as there were some concerns raised, a decision was postponed until the next meeting.

In addition, President Bob Scott updated the Board on progress toward a job description of the chair of the building committee, and noted that it mainly requires managing the committee, as the actual work of the committee is being done by members of the committee. Vice President Craig Talbot raised the issue of the struggle the Fellowship often has in recruiting volunteers. A volunteer coordinator will be sought to help with this issue.

Progress was reported regarding the minister's office; carpet is to be installed the last week of November. Important Fellowship dates scheduled include March 15, 2008, the Stewardship dinner; April 6, 2008, the ordination and installation of Rev.

CARING CORNER

Thank you very much to all the people who have offered their help to others by filling out volunteer "Helping Hands" forms at the table the Caring Committee has had at several recent coffee hours.

Life is full of ups and downs. Despite appearances to the contrary, everyone experiences some sorrow, some difficulty in life – that is just part of life, part of what makes us human. As Deborah noted in her sermon on November 11, we all pride ourselves on carrying our loads by ourselves, but sharing our sorrows, asking for and accepting some help can build relationships and strengthen our community. Remember, a hug feels good to both parties!

The Caring Committee can arrange various kinds of short-term help for people in times of need due to illness, injury, and death in the family. We can provide rides to the Fellowship, to medical appointments, meals, hospital or home visits, grocery shoppings or errands, housework, yard work, minor repairs, child and pet care. Be assured that confidentiality will be maintained if that is your wish.

There are many ways to contact the Caring Committee. You can contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy at email: caring. You can speak to her or any of the other members at Sunday services: Heidi Buss, Pat Orban, John Orban, and Diane Cohle. You can, of course, also speak with our minister, Deborah Mero (email: minister).

You may also notice a wooden box on the table in the lobby. It has a pocket on one side with forms in it which you may use to request help – just fill one out and place it in the box. If you wish to sign up to provide help as well, there are forms for that too, on the table.

Deborah Mero; and June 1, 2008, the annual business meeting.

Board members include 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. Meetings are open to the congregation and Board reports are posted on the UFWC website. Board members are especially interested in receiving comments and questions from the congregation.

— Deanna Koepcke, Board Secretary



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

There are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday groups now meeting. New group members are welcome. If interested, contact Gerry Giess at email: SGM. More information can be found in brochures in the lobby.

EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

DECEMBER 16, 7-8:30 P.M.

How do we view a newcomer to our community? Are we welcoming or wary? What causes us to react one way or the other? *Sweet Land* is a poignant and lyrical film about the immigrant experience. When Inge arrives in Minnesota as a "mail order bride" in 1920, she expects to marry the young Norwegian farmer named Olaf with whom she has corresponded. But her German heritage and lack of official immigration papers makes her an object of suspicion, and she and Olaf are forbidden to marry.

Join us for a discussion of how we decide who belongs and who doesn't. Discussion will be led by Dena Beeghly

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



LUNCH GROUP

Lunch group will meet Friday, December 14 at 11:30 a.m. at Panera, located in West Goshen, near Shop Rite on West Chester Pike. Newcomers are welcome. E-mail lunch-group to be added to the e-mail reminder list. If you don't have e-mail or you change your mind at the last minute, come anyway. Everyone is welcome.

SIMPLICITY CIRCLE

Our next meeting is December 2, the usual first Sunday in the month at 12:30 p.m. Jim Hynes will lead us off this time, as 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 paths have many dimensions.

We've been asked why we are called Simplicity Circle. We are considering changing our name. Simplicity does have many dimensions, including inside and outside, the reflective and the practical. Dr. Stephen Ilardi, talking about being Simply Happy, says "Want to beat depression? Instead of popping pills, we need to go outside, get physical, yak with our neighbors, and live more like...cavemen."

These discussions are significant opportunities for new friends and members to be integrated with our larger membership via a reflective and personable atmosphere. Come and join us. No preparation needed. It's a good group for newcomers; no commitment required, though continuity is best. Contact Heidi Buss at email: simplicity.

BICARB BISTRO FOLLOW-UP

The Bicarb Bistro has been a tradition at UFWC for many years. It is a friendly cooking competition where people usually eat so much they ask for the sodium *bicarbon*ate. We didn't know if we would be able to continue with the Bicarb Bistro as a large congregation. Who wants to cook for 60 or more people?

This year we brought back Flo and Mike Miller, two of the original Bicarb Bistro founders, to organize the event. They made it a combination pot luck and cooking competition to ensure we had enough to eat. The serving sizes of the dishes entered could be very small, but people wouldn't leave hungry. It was a success. There was plenty of great food.

They also brought folk singing to the Bicarb, something everyone could participate in. So, thank you, Mike and Flo, for all your hard work and for saving the Bicarb Bistro

— The Fun & Fellowship Committee

Send your suggestions for future Bicarb Bistros to email: fun. Check the website for this year's winning recipes.

SINGLE SERVICES

Please note that there will be only one Sunday service, at 10 a.m. on December 23 and December 30.

COFFEE HOUSE

There will be no coffee house in December. See the next issue of the *Fellowtarian* for the January date.

HOLIDAY PARTIES

The Fun & Fellowship committee has a number of fun events lined up for December and January. Children are particularly welcome to the Gingerbread House Decorating party, the Game Night party, and the New Year's Day party. For the in-home parties, the hosts provide the beverages and one dish, and the guests bring a dish to share, preferably something that can be eaten while mingling.

Maps will be available in the lobby and will be distributed by email before each party. For more information, or if you need a ride, contact Nancy Artus at email: fun.

December 1, Saturday, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
Gingerbread House Decorating Party at UFWC.
See accompanying article. Sign up now.

December 2, Sunday
Habitat for Humanity Italian Bistro Spaghetti Dinner
Fundraiser at UFWC (see p.5). This is not a Fun & Fellowship sponsored holiday party, but we hope you will attend.

December 7, Friday, 6:30 p.m.
Game Night Holiday Party at UFWC:
We are transforming our regular game night into a family holiday party! See the accompanying article.

December 15, Saturday, 6-10 p.m.
Holiday Party at the home of Jack and Alane Butler
Address in Directory

December 22, Saturday, 6:30 p.m.
Holiday Party at the home Rick and Sandy Marts
Address in Directory

January 1, Tuesday, 2-7 pm
New Year's Day Open House at the home of Curt Hoganson and Nancy Artus
Address in Directory

January 12, Saturday, 7-9 p.m.
Karaoke Party at UFWC — details in the January *Fellowtarian*



DECEMBER GAME NIGHT IS A HOLIDAY PARTY

May the merry bells keep ringing....Hey! We're having a stepped-up Holiday Party/Game Night Friday, December 7, at 6:30 p.m. This is not your typical game night: we will ask you to bring in traditional holiday foods you grew up with to share at a potluck. We will have holiday music playing; we will be decorating cookies for dessert. If you don't like games, come and share in the food. Decorate a cookie — plus, there will be holiday videos playing.

For those who do like games, we will have a holiday-themed "All My Friends and Neighbors" (a very simple game we'll explain when you get there), holiday puzzles, and our usual assortment of games.

Come on out and have a good time. The potluck begins at 6:30 — games and cookie decorating around 7:30. Contact email: fun. We look forward to seeing you there.

FOLK SINGING

There will be no folk singing in December. Check the January *Fellowtarian* for our next get-together.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING PARTY

There's still room for you at the Gingerbread House Decorating Party at UFWC 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. Because of the nature of this event (supplies, messiness, room needed for houses), participation is limited to 30 houses.



— Jen Feld, Fun & Fellowship

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

All email addresses @ufwc.org unless otherwise noted.

Dec 1	Sat	Gingerbread House Decorating Party. 1:30-4:30 p.m. See p. 9.
Dec 2	Sun	Poinsettia and Wreath Sale & Order Pick-Up. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sanctuary. Habitat Italian Bistro Spaghetti Dinner. 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at UFWC. See p.5. Simplicity Circle. 12:30 p.m. Fireplace Room. See p. 8.
Dec 5	Wed	RE Committee. 7:00 p.m. OWL room. Contact Pam Baxter, email: dre
Dec 6	Thu	Caring Committee. 1-3 p.m. Sharon Mayer-Conroy's home. Contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: caring. See p. 7 Global Warming Interest Group. 7-9 p.m. Lobby. Contact Diane Maguire, email: global-warming. See p. 5.
Dec 7	Fri	Finance Committee. 2:00 p.m. Office. Contact Erach Patel, email finance Game Night Holiday Party. 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 9.
Dec 9	Sun	Safe Harbor Dinner. Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. To help, contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: safe-harbor
Dec 10	Mon	Beyond War showing of the film <i>Ghosts of Abu Ghraib.</i> 7-9 p.m. Fireplace Room. Email: beyond-war. See p. 5.
Dec 11	Tue	Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Office. All are welcome.
Dec 13	Thu	Social Justice Committee. 7:15-9 p.m. Office. Contact Ed Cohle, e-mail: social-justice-chair. See p. 5.
Dec 14	Fri	Lunch Group. 11:30 a.m. See p. 8.
Dec 14-15	Fri-Sat	Youth Group Movie Night & Sleep Over. 5 p.m.-8 a.m. See p. 3.
Dec 15	Sat	Holiday Party. 6-10 p.m. Jack and Alane Butler Home. See p. 9.
Dec 16	Sun	Exploring Diversity Book Discussion Group. 7-8:30 p.m. Fireplace Room. See p. 8.
Dec 18	Tue	Council Meeting. 7 pm, office. Contact Craig Talbot, email: vice-president
Dec 22	Sat	Lunch for the Needy. Provided by our Fellowship at the Salvation Army. To help, contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: salvation-army Holiday Party. 6:30 p.m. Rich and Sandy Marts Home. See p. 9.
Dec 27	Thu	Religious Services Committee. 7:30 p.m. Office. Contact Curt Hoganson, email: religious-services
Jan 1	Sat	New Year's Day Open House. 2-7 p.m. Curt Hoganson and Nancy Artus Home. See p. 9.

Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

Small Group Ministry	Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday groups have openings, and other groups may start. See p. 7.
Youth Group	Most Sunday mornings. 10:45 a.m. OWL/Youth Group rm. Contact Kate Cuffari, email: youth-group. See p. 3.
Choir Practice	Thursdays, 7:15 p.m., in the sanctuary. Contact Barbara Kovacs, Choir Director, email: choir. See p. 4.
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 Court House. High and Market Streets, West Chester. See p. 5.