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Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester

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SUNDAY SERVICES

December, 2008

December 7

SOUL FOOD

Rev. Deborah Mero

Many of us have comfort foods that we turn to in times of stress. We all have our own ways of dealing with the challenges that come our way. What can we find to feed our souls as well as our bodies? In our tradition, we tend to have a buffet. So what kind of things are on the menu?

December 14

THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE

Rev. Deborah Mero

In the wet and cold winter of 1914 peace broke out in fine fashion in the midst of a battlefield. A true story, it will be told in the words of those who were there.

December 21

THE SHORTEST DAY OF THE YEAR

Rev. Deborah Mero

Join us for an intergenerational celebration of the Winter Solstice. It is the darkest, shortest, and one of the most interesting of the pagan or earth centered celebrations. Light and dark are brought into full view, but warmth abounds!

Wednesday December 24
5 P.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Rev. Deborah Mero

Join us for a Victorian Christmas Eve with a decidedly nostalgic feel. We will have familiar stories to tell that will warm the heart, music to hear and sing that will feed the soul, and a general spirit of love and good cheer. This will be a service for the whole family.

December 28

**ONE DOUBLE SHOT CARAMEL LATTE, TWO RAMEN
NOODLES, AND A SLEEVE OF OREOS**

Michael Werner

Join us as we ask our recent high school graduates the question: "What did you have for dinner the first time you pulled an all nighter?" In what has become a favorite holiday service, we celebrate the recent transition of our high school youth to adult life by bringing them back to share their experiences on this, the first step of their adult life. Michael Werner, our Youth Group Leader Emeritus, will facilitate the discussion. Donuts will be served.

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

The Song of Deborah

As I sit writing these words there is a stiff wind blowing the trees in all directions outside my window. The winds of change are evident everywhere I look. It reminds me of the north wind that blew into the little town in France in the movie *Chocolat*. The seasonal change is now upon us, signaled by the weather as well as the stores and catalogs in my mailbox. The election season has finally — finally come to an end, and now the planning and anticipation of sweeping policy changes is taking over.

In any normal year, these changes would just be part of the cycle that we expect. This is no ordinary year for so many reasons. High on that list is that the consumer fed economy as we have known it for a long time no longer exists. People are not buying as they have for decades; with few customers, stores are contracting as is the manufacturing sector. Everything will be affected in one way or another. With the Christmas and holiday season now here, that sense of change will be more tangible. Needs and wants will become clearer for us all as we plan the holidays.

How do we, as people of faith respond to the challenges that change brings? That's always an important question and usually our instincts point to doing things incrementally, slowly, carefully. This time may

be different. Every year, no matter which congregation I have served, I have always begun the season with reminders about the true meanings of the holidays. The little baby born in a manger in a barn because there is no room in the inn, the triumph of the spirit of the Maccabees and holding on to faith in the face of persecution, the ebbing of the light bringing a time of respite and rest before the cycle of the sun brings it back into its fullness. Each tradition pays heed

to the cycle of the sun and the multitude of metaphors for light. The marketing of the holidays and the focus on "stuff" has done quite a bit to try to erode the underlying message. Perhaps this year will be different.

The message, as I see it, is about hope reborn. So many hopes were projected on the baby Jesus, and we, as Unitarian Universalists, take those hopes and try to fill each and every child with them. The miracle of the oil lamp lasting far, far beyond what it should have in early Judea reminds us that signs of hope do come

to us when we most need them to remind us to hold fast to our faith. And the reemergence of the sun assures us that life is not linear, that we will continue to see the seasons in their full glory and have new opportunities to build and grow. In the darkest times, in the midst of turmoil or despair, there has always been hope. And there has, is, and always will be love. No matter what, we have that.

Let the season be one of gratitude and generosity — not just the gift giving kind, but one where we find ways to give of ourselves, reach out, and grow our circles of love and caring. Let it be one of peace where we mend relationships and appreciate one another in spite of or even because of our faults. Let it be one of warmth and welcoming. Let us find new ways of renewing our spirits and sharing our faith and hope.

I wish you all a season filled with joy, with love, with hope, and with warmth. I sincerely hope that we can share some or all of it together, in community. I am more grateful than you can imagine to be here with you.

— Blessings,
Deborah

Let the season be one of gratitude and generosity — not just the gift giving kind, but one where we find ways to give of ourselves.

ADULT LEARNING AND ENRICHMENT READING SACRED TEXTS

On two Wednesdays, December 3 and 17, we will discuss the Stephen Mitchell translation of the *Bhagavad-Gita* at 11 a.m. in the minister's office. All are welcome.

FROM THE PRESIDENT – WHEW!

I know I speak for many of us when I say how relieved I was to wake up after Election Day with restored hope in the future and pride in our country and its ability to make positive change in the world (and undo some of the hurtful change we have imposed).

I also am personally deeply appreciative of and indebted to all of you in the congregation who worked tirelessly on this election and hope you are enjoying a much deserved rest.

What next? With this background now in place we UU's, who feel strongly about a just and compassionate world, have more hope that our efforts will bear fruit. There's much work to do yet, and in my case a better landscape for change inspires me to work harder for that change.

By now many of you have attended one of our neighborhood meetings to help craft a mission statement, and hopefully you've been able to figure out the difference between mission and vision along the way. (Ask if you're still not sure).

I encourage you to stay involved in this process as the committee drafts a statement reflecting input from all the groups and hosts a town meeting in January to discuss and refine – it's great to hear what others have said and watch this collective input take shape into a focused mission we can

all get behind and measure progress against yearly.

Meanwhile the Board continues to work on its own organization and policies and is looking forward to having the final mission statement to work with as we form our more specific Ends policies later in our fellowship year. These Ends will derive directly from our final Mission statement, and we are working to put some reporting structure in place so we can know how we're doing against them.

Get involved!

Our mission/covenant work is very important – we need to hear from everyone and craft a collective view of what we want to work to accomplish as a congregation. But there's more than that. Once we say the words, we need to back them up with action on all fronts. We are a volunteer organization with plenty of groups and committees that

need and welcome your help, and I suspect there are some of us wanting to be more involved but unsure how.

We have decided to apply for a Chalice Lighters grant to help us increase our professional staff and hire a volunteer/membership coordinator to focus on connecting our people with our needs more effectively. Meanwhile if anyone wants to help define this role and serve in a volunteer capacity as volunteer coordinator in the short term, please contact me.

But most of all let's get and stay connected to each other – come to services on Sunday, attend some upcoming holiday parties, join a committee, volunteer to help in any small way you can. The tide for change has come in and we at UFWC need to be in position to make use of this fact to advance our mission – whatever we agree for it to be.

— Bob Scott,
President

Once we say the words, we need to back them up with action on all fronts.



HOLIDAY SANCTUARY DECORATION

While the young and young at heart will be decorating Gingerbread Houses (beginning at 1:30 p.m.), we will also be decorating the sanctuary for the holiday season. All volunteers are welcome. Goodies will be served.

REMARKS – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

Congratulations and thank you to Emma Bixler, Ben Lyons, Chloe McLewee and Emma Schilling for Trick-or-Treating for UNICEF on Halloween night. And to Clara Troltenier for her contribution. Together, they raised over \$70. I had agreed to match up to \$30, bringing the total to \$100. And – thanks to a matching grant in effect through November 30, it turns out that this will be doubled, to \$200. All those dimes, quarters and dollars add up, and will help improve children's lives in countries around the world. Great job!

Class Notes

K/1st: The new curriculum, "Creating Home," starts with the idea of home or meeting place as sacred space. To reinforce the concept of "threshold," the program invokes the ancient form and practice of the labyrinth.

Home is a place you journey from and return to each day of your life. To combine the message of threshold and the message of journey, the program uses a labyrinth-based opening ritual designed for young children to help them slow down, focus their attention, and mark the moment they cross the threshold into a place of learning.

A labyrinth looks like a maze, but is not the same. A

maze is a puzzle; it is easy to take a wrong turn and get stuck. But a labyrinth has no wrong turns. Going into the labyrinth can feel like going on a journey, and returning home again.

Thanks to volunteer teacher Beth Daniels, who created a canvas labyrinth for the class which the children decorated. If you didn't have a chance to see the labyrinth during the Enhanced Coffee Hour in November, please stop downstairs.

REMINDER — Gingerbread house-making party on Sunday, December 7, from 1:30-4:30 p.m. See page 9. No age limit, just come to the Fellowship in a wintry mood! And bring your own pre-baked house.

6th/7th: The students in this class have been learning about different aspects of social action, including discovering their inner passion and doing hands-on projects. On November 8, Alex Frayer, Jeffrey Quake, Clara Troltenier and Spencer Vogt met at the Fellowship to make lunches to deliver to the UFWC Habitat for Humanity volunteers. The lunches were much appreciated. The students got a tour of the project and also

learned more from Tom Buglio in their class the next day.

4th/5th: How do you tell a UU? (No, that's not the beginning of a joke.) Sometimes you just observe, as in the following report from one of the teachers:

"This week we did lesson #23 ...which told the stories of George De Benneville and Clara Barton . . . we read the stories out loud, each taking a turn to read . . . discussed the stories and what it was like to be a Unitarian in the 1700's and 1800's...we had a very nice discussion.

"Then the kids had a fun game of Cadoo. Boys against the girls. And as I watched them play I had the chance to appreciate what nice children they all are. Each waited for a turn patiently, rules were amicably established, no one had a harsh or impatient word for another, and each was accepting of the others' differences....in other words they were living examples of UU principles. What more could we ask for?"

— Pam Baxter
DRE

YOUTH GROUP

It's time, yet again, for a Battle of the Bands organized by the UFWC Youth Group. On Friday, December 12 from 6 to 10 p.m., we'll host four local bands, including Finding Blue and Waiting for December, and gather many music-loving teens. Admission is \$5; all proceeds will go to charities to be selected by the youths and musicians. We're looking for adult chaperones (ear-plugs provided!), so please let us know if you can help out. Contact advisors with your questions at email: youth-group.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees conducted its regular monthly meeting on November 11. Development of our Mission and Covenant continues as the Mission sub-committee works to combine the inputs from all of the meetings held in October. Attendance at these meetings represented a good percentage and cross-section of the congregation – thank you to all who participated. Watch for information on meetings in January to bring this work to a close.

New members of the Committee on Ministry (COM) have been identified and have agreed to serve on this very important committee, which will begin meeting soon. Bob Scott recapped the JPD Conference on Race which sparked a lively conversation on how to improve the diversity of our UFWC community. Continuing discussions included: leadership development, Board and Executive Team relationships, membership and attendance, stewardship, canvassing of new members, and coordination of volunteers.

Current Board members include: Bob Scott, President; Craig Talbot, Vice President; Erach Patel, Executive Treasurer; Eileen Kelly-Meyer, Secretary; and Diane Cohle, Sandy Schaal, Juan Leon and Betty Grosse, Trustees. Rev. Deborah Mero, Pam Baxter, Director of Religious Education, and Mark Steel, Program Coordinator, also meet with the Board. Members and friends of the Fellowship are encouraged to share comments and concerns with Board members, as well as to attend Board meetings if interested.

The Board meets on the second Tuesday of the month in the office. Meeting minutes are posted to the members section of the UFWC website after being approved by the Board.



BOOKCASE NEEDED

The UFWC Book Exchange, located in the fireplace room, is outgrowing its space and is in need of a larger bookcase. If you have one that you can donate, please

contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy at email: book-exchange. In the meantime, please refrain from leaving books that do not fit in the bookcase that we do have.



The Book Exchange was set up as a way to circulate books (mainly fiction) through our community to save both money and resources. The only rule is to “take a book, leave a book.”

POINSETTIA REMINDER

Don't forget to pick up your poinsettias after the service December 7. Order deadline: November 24.

CARING CORNER

Cooks Needed! The Caring Committee is still looking for people who are willing to help out their “friends and neighbors” when they are in need by providing an occasional meal. This is one of the ways in which we take care of one another, and we really need as many people as possible to help spread the effort. If this is something you can help out with, please email Sharon Mayer-Conroy (email: caring) with your contact information and the best times to reach you.

Several comfort shawls are now available in a basket in the library to borrow, take, or give to someone in need of comfort. Again, many thanks to all the members of the **Comfort Shawl Group** who have contributed to this effort.

We welcome Helena Graham, a new UFWC member who has joined the Caring Committee. If you find yourself in need of help, please feel free to ask. We have **Helping Hands** volunteers who can provide rides, meals, do chores, etc., for people in time of need. You can speak to Rev. Deborah Mero, or anyone on the Caring Committee: Heidi Buss, Jen Feld, Helena Graham, Lauren Kelly, Sharon Mayer-Conroy, John Orban, Pat Orban, and Ann Rice. You can identify us by the hearts on our name tags. We can also be reached at email: caring.

STONES IN THE SAME WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

Thanks to the eight members of our congregation who attended the racial justice conference at First Unitarian Church in Philadelphia. We were well represented including one high school and one college student. It was nice to see a diverse group attend. We met the new JDP staff person who is responsible for racial and social justice assistance to congregations in our district. This is a new position and points to the denomination's commitment to these issues.

Our hope is to bring back some of what we learned to influence the way UFWC operates and to make our congregation more sensitive to racial justice issues. It became clear to us that our good intentions and welcoming attitude are not enough to make us a more diverse congregation. The social justice committee recently approved the formation of a group to address these issues. More on that in future months.

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION PROJECT

We are collecting canned and boxed foods the first Sunday of every month. The next food collection will be December 7. The food will be donated to the Cares Food Network which will distribute it to food cupboards throughout the county. It's also a great chance to donate food items that you no longer want because you may have purchased too many or are just tired of eating (think about those giant packages you buy at BJs for example). Please make sure that the food is not expired. All food items should be put into the baskets in the lobby. This is a great chance to teach your kids about helping others in need.

Another opportunity to help is to use the box on the Grocery Card table for cash and check donations. Donations are used to buy grocery cards and, if specified by the donor, CFL light bulbs, for the local food bank operated by Catholic Social Services.

UU SERVICE COMMITTEE

The kickoff date for this year's Guest at Your Table is Sunday, November 23. The theme is Civil Liberties as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10.

UUSC will lead the world community in celebrating this landmark commitment to human rights and civil liberties because UUSC believes that civil liberties are human rights, and UUSC affirms the fundamental rights of everyone regardless of class, gender, ethnicity, immigration status, national origin, race, or religion. UUSC supports work in the U.S. to restore the democratic principles and practices that have eroded in the past six years. UUSC also has civil liberties partners around the world, such as in Afghanistan, Burma, Guatemala, and Thailand, to name just a few.

For an inspirational slide show, go to www.uusc.org. Most importantly, participate in Guest at Your Table this year. (If you miss getting a box on November 23, there will be extras on the table in the lobby.) Better yet, become or renew your membership. Robin Garrett, Linda Sander, or Tom Townsend can tell you the status of your membership.



GW Group's Tip of the Month: Does the stock market have you down? Investing in energy-saving home improvements always yields a positive return and will reduce greenhouse gases. The average U.S. house is responsible for twice the greenhouse gas emissions as the average car, annually (22,000 lbs. vs. 11,500 lbs). Consider a home energy audit to identify where you can make improvements. Go to www.energystar.gov, and come to the Home Energy Audit seminar on December 10. See p. 7.

HOME ENERGY AUDIT SEMINAR

The Global Warming group will host a 45 minute presentation "Why Get a Home Energy Audit?" beginning at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary on December 10. Matt Lillard, owner of Green Savers, will educate us about the benefits of an audit as well as explain what is involved.

A question and answer period will follow. Mr. Lillard is interested in helping people reduce their carbon footprint as well as save money on utility bills. The average U.S. house is responsible for twice the annual greenhouse gas emissions as the average car.



BEYOND WAR

We just finished the Beyond War eight week study course. Participants learned about a philosophy of peace that included personal implications. The course attracted people outside of UFWC as well as two college students.

These kinds of courses serve to deepen our personal commitment to peace as well as exemplifying many of our UU principles.

AN INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM AND MUSLIMS

The UFWC is extremely fortunate to offer a 10-week course on Islam, beginning January 25. It will approach Islam from a historical and scriptural perspective, covering the foundations of the religion and then building on the economic, political and cultural institutions that arose in Muslim societies. It will cover the Golden Age of Muslim civilization and then discuss its decline. Contemporary issues faced by Islam and Muslims will be covered. A final unit will be the involvement of the U.S. in the Muslim world and its ramifications.

The instructor, Iftexhar Hussain, is a practicing Muslim, an international business professional, and a U.S. citizen who has lived in Pennsylvania for 18 years. In his role as Chair of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Pennsylvania (CAIR Pennsylvania), he offers this class at no charge to interested groups. His method of instruction is to post power point slides for discussion. The class is informal in style and rich in dialogue. There are no required readings, although recommendations are provided to those who wish them.



This class will be offered on Sundays beginning January 25 at two different locations and times. There is no charge, but prior registration is requested. Please sign up for the time and location that is best for you but if you have a conflict, feel free to attend the alternate class. If your schedule prohibits you from attending all of the classes, come to those that you can.

Sunday afternoons, 1-3 p.m. Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester, 501 S. High Street, West Chester, www.ufwc.org. To register contact class coordinator Cyndy Bullaughey at email: Islam-class.

Sunday evenings, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Grove United Methodist Church, 490 West Boot Road, Downingtown, www.grovechurch.org. To register call Grove's Direction of Education, Patti Klotz.

SHARE-THE-PLATE NOMINATIONS

Every month, we share the plate with a local organization. If you know a deserving organization doing work in the local community (Chester County) to whom our donation would make a difference, please obtain a nominations form by contacting us at email: share-the-plate-nominations. We ask that you do this before January 1 so it can be considered.

2008 SERVICE AUCTION A SUCCESS

Our 2008 Service Auction held on November 15 was a huge success. Thank you so much for coming and participating. We had a great turn out, great food, lots of fun, and we made a net profit of over \$9,000 for UFWC.

Thank you to everyone who offered services or items, to those who brought desserts, and to the set-up and clean-up helpers. A special thank you to the people that made the auction happen, even without a chair. They include Mark and Marie Steel, Dan Meyer, Christina Brenner, Nancy Artus, Brett Goldman, Craig Talbot, and of course our unprofessional auctioneers, Ed Cohle and Mike Miller. Or was that Miller and Cohle?



LUNCH GROUP

Lunch group will meet Friday, December 12, at 11:30 a.m. at Panera Bread, 1103 West Chester Pike, near Shop Rite. Newcomers are welcome. To be added to the e-mail reminder list, contact Linda Sander at email: lunch-group. The reminders are an easy way to RSVP, so we can save enough seats for everyone. If you don't have e-mail or you change your mind at the last minute, come anyway. Everyone is welcome.

DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 (SPECIAL DATE)

Each year, the Diversity Book Group selects a film for its December meeting. This year is no exception. Our December movie is *The Rape of Europa*. According to Carrie Rickey's review in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The Rape of Europa* is equal parts history, thriller and inspirational story. It's a provocative account of Hitler's theft of many of Europe's cultural masterpieces as well as his destruction of art work he deemed unworthy. *The Rape of Europa* tells the story of the theft, recovery and eventual repatriation of these works of art in a jaw-dropping suspenseful style and introduces those unsung heroes who in the words of one Florentine scored a, "victory of beauty over horror." Susan Gast will lead our discussion.

Special time this month: The December 14 meeting will take place at the home of Susan Gast — at 5 p.m. for those who choose to view this movie immediately before the 7 p.m. discussion. There will be a dinner of shrimp and turkey jambalaya served before the discussion.

Please note our change of date to the second Sunday this month and also time and place changes above.

Please contact Ruth or Shelley for directions and to let us know if you would like to watch the film and have jambalaya or if you will only attend the discussion — Shelly Case or Ruth MacFadyen at email: diversity-book-group. All are Welcome.

DELIBERATE LIVING

Our next meeting is December 7, the first Sunday of the month as usual. We meet at 12:30 p.m. downstairs after the second service.

In living deliberately, we have asked ourselves questions: What are we really after in our life? What are our deepest longings for a complete life? What are some of the pathways toward reaching our authentic core, and how do we live it out? These pathways have many dimensions. Alex Miller from the Downingtown Friends Meeting group, who led us off on a most stimulating meeting last month, will do it again this time. He has been a valued participant with us and is a leader among the Friends group. Alex has expressed interest in more interaction and participation between UFWC and their activities and meetings, especially as he found that our principles are basically identical. Try not to miss this meeting.

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 to be a part of our typical dynamic flow of good energy. No preparation is needed. No commitment is required, though continuity is best. Contact Heidi Buss at email: deliberate-living.

HOLIDAY PARTIES

Thanks to our volunteer hosts, there will be plenty of fellowship cheer this holiday season. In addition to the Gingerbread House Decorating Party (see accompanying article), we have three in-home parties lined up. Below are the hosts, dates, times and addresses, and whether or not you should RSVP. Directions will be available in the back of the sanctuary and as a link from the Connections emails.

All UFWC members and friends, including children, are welcome to any or all of the parties. Youth members Jay Heck and Taylor and Erin Steel extend a special invitation to the youth group and other teens to their parties. There will be a special room and activities for children at the Heck and Steel parties.

All of the parties are pot-luck. The hosts will provide beverages and one dish, and all guests are asked to bring a dish. Finger food and hors d'oeuvres are preferred since we do not eat at a table.

Music will be a theme at all three parties. There will be holiday-themed singing at the Hecks', and the Steels and Chic and Judy invite musicians to bring instruments.

For those of you with allergies to pets, be aware that the Hecks have a cat and two dogs. If you need a ride, contact Sharon of the Caring Committee at email: caring.

Saturday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m.
Hosts: The Heck family
RSVP: Call if you are bringing children.

Friday, December 19 at 7:30 p.m.
Hosts: The Steel family
RSVP: by phone or email

Thursday, January 1 from 1-5 p.m.
Hosts: Chic Bach and Judy Perri
RSVP: by phone or email

— The Fun & Fellowship Committee

DECEMBER 5 GAME NIGHT & HOLIDAY PARTY CANCELLED

DECEMBER 26 GAME NIGHT INSTEAD

Due to a conflict with the West Chester Old Fashioned Christmas Parade, we have cancelled the game night holiday potluck scheduled for December 5. Because the UFWC calendar is quite full for December, we will not reschedule it. However, we will hold a regular game night on Friday, December 26. There will be a potluck at 6:30 p.m. followed by games. Everyone is welcome. Bring a dish and beverage to share, and any games you may want to play. Contact the Fun & Fellowship committee for more information at email: fun.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING PARTY DECEMBER 7

Our second annual Gingerbread House decorating party will be at UFWC on December 7 from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Please bring a pre-baked gingerbread house (sold in all craft and grocery stores) and a donation of \$5 for decorations. We supply icing, pretzels, gummy candy, licorice, graham crackers, snacks, and more icing.

This event is for children and all ages. We will also have several experienced gingerbread decorators there for any assistance you may need. Signing up early lets us know how many supplies to order. There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby.



FOLK SINGING

The next folk singing get-together is Saturday, December 6, at 8 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. All are welcome. No singing talent or experience is necessary. Bring a munchie, if you wish. Guitar-players are welcome to bring their instruments. Maps are in the foyer. Contact Steve at email: folk-singing.

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

All email addresses @ufwc.org unless otherwise noted.

- Dec 1 Mon Beyond War Group.** 7-9 p.m. Fireplace Room. Contact John Gribbin, email: beyond-war.
- Dec 3 Wed Religious Education Committee.** 7 p.m. OWL room. Contact Sue Quake, email: RE
- Dec 4 Thu Global Warming Group.** 7-8:30 p.m. Fireplace Room. Contact Diane Maguire, email: global-warming
- Dec 5 Fri Game Night Cancelled.** Rescheduled to December 26. See p.9.
- Dec 6 Sat Folk Singing.** 8 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. See p. 9.
- Dec 7 Sun Food Collection.** The first Sunday of the month. Lobby. See p. 6.
Poinsettia Sale Pick-up. After each Sunday service.
Deliberate Living. 12:30 p.m. Fireplace Room. See p. 8.
Gingerbread House Decorating Party. 1:30 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 9.
Holiday Sanctuary Decorating. 1:30 p.m. See p. 3.
- Dec 9 Tue Board Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Office. All are welcome.
- Dec 10 Wed Home Energy Audit Seminar.** 7 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 7.
- Dec 11 Thu Comfort Shawl Group.** 10 a.m. Fireplace Room. Contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: caring
Social Justice Committee. 7:15-9 p.m. Office. Contact Ed Cohle, email: social-justice.
- Dec 12 Fri Lunch Group.** 11:30 a.m. Panera Bread. See p. 8.
Exploring Our Spirituality Book Group. 1:30-3:30 p.m. at home of Harriet Singer. Contact Harriet Singer or Susan Gast, email: spirituality-book-group
Youth Group Battle of the Bands. 6-10 p.m. See p. 4.
- Dec 13 Sat Holiday Party.** 6:30 p.m. Hosts: the Heck family. See p. 9.
- Dec 14 Sun Safe Harbor Dinner.** Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. To help, contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: safe-harbor
Exploring Diversity Book Group. 5 p.m. film followed by dinner; 7 p.m. discussion. At the home of Susan Gast. See p. 8.
- Dec 18 Thu Religious Services Committee.** 7:30 p.m. Office. Contact Curt Hoganson, email: religious-services.
- Dec 19 Fri Holiday Party.** 7:30 p.m. Hosts: the Steel family. See p. 9.
- Dec 23 Tue Fellowship Council.** 7-9 p.m. Office. Contact Mark Steel, email: program
- Dec 26 Fri Game Night.** 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary. See p.9.
- Dec 28 Sun Comfort Shawl Group.** 7-8:45 p.m. Fireplace Room. Contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: caring
- Jan 1 Thu Holiday Party.** 1-5 p.m. Hosts: Chic Back and Judy Perri. See p. 9.

Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

- Adult Enrichment** Reading Sacred Texts. 11 a.m., Wednesdays Dec. 3 and 17. See p. 2.
- Choir Practice** Generally the three Thursdays before the third Sunday (which is when they sing at services). No practice on the fourth Thursday. Contact Helen Meacham, email: choir
- Peace Vigils** Saturdays 11 a.m. to noon. High and Market Streets, West Chester. Email: social-justice.
- Yoga Classes** Thursdays 6:15-7:15 p.m. Downstairs. Contact Mira Tryon, email: yoga.
- Youth Group** Most Sundays, 10:45-noon. OWL room. Email: youth-group.