

Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester

Telephone: 610-692-5966 Web: www.ufwc.org

Our Mission: As a diverse liberal faith congregation, we make a difference in our lives, our children's lives, and the wider community by creating an environment for spiritual growth and fulfillment, for building meaningful connections, and for actively advancing peace and justice in the world.

SUNDAY SERVICES April 2011

April 3 A CELEBRATION OF HOPE Rev. Deborah Mero

In past congregations the annual baseball sermon has been a regular part of the Sunday calendar on the first weekend in April. Now, into my fourth year with you I finally get to talk about baseball, both literally and metaphorically.

April 10 MEDITATION 101 UFWC Members

As the kickoff for a monthly UFWC meditation group, the three organizers, Deanna Gabe, Cheryl Pittenger and Harriet Singer will share some of their experiences with meditation, how it has enhanced their lives, and their plans for the group. A guided meditation will be part of this program. The Meditation Group will begin on Sunday, April 17, at 5 p.m. at the Fellowship. All are welcome today and on April 17.

April 17 WE BELONG TO THE EARTH... Rev. Deborah Mero

...It does not belong to us. We heard those words from Kim and Reggie Harris when they were with us in February. The first Earth Day was on April 22, 1970. How are we doing?

April 24 PLAYING WITH THE PASSION PLAY Rev. Deborah Mero

Last year I made mention of the film *Jesus of Montreal*. We have scheduled a showing of it on April 16. What does it have to teach us about the story that has been the foundation of faith for so many millions of people?

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

THE SONG OF DEBORAH

Spring is officially here! There have been many signs. The robins are singing. The crocuses have emerged and are now in bloom. The date on the calendar says it has arrived. Arizona and Florida are teeming with baseball

players getting ready for the 2011 season. And green shoots are starting to appear in the grass and on the trees and bushes.

With the coming of spring also comes a renewed awareness of the environ-

ment, of the ecosystem that sustains us. This past year the Religious Council of Greater West Chester has lifted up the subject of sustainability for the year's programming. Among other things, we have learned about sustainable farming from a local farmer. We discussed energy use and conservation. We learned about responsible shopping and not just recycling, but re-purposing.

The most recent meeting brought us a presentation about the Marcellus Shale and the hydrofracking that is being done to release natural gas deposits deep beneath the surface of the earth. The Center for American Progress' blog has an article about fracking in Ohio that gives a wealth of links to articles about what is happening with the issue in several states including our own. If you don't know much about the subject - even if you do - I recommend it: http:// thinkprogress.org/2011/03/16/ kasich-fracking-state-parks/

Now is the time for public comment to the Delaware River Basin Commission as they are debating whether to extend their temporary ban on shale drilling. It will directly affect the quality of our drinking water. Comments are due by April 15. You can do so here: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=261 &projectD=33467&document ID=37829

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I have to say that the energy I have been witnessing around the Fellowship has been a wonderful sight to see. The last few months of Sundays have been invigorating, and the calendar has

filled up to the point that I don't see how we can cram one more thing on it. When we have planned events and activities you have been showing up. What it comes down to is that you all like doing things with one another, exploring new experiences, talking about big things and every day things. Newcomers are returning and

finding the UFWC a welcoming place for them. It all warms my heart.

As our budget drive continues I hope you are supporting that as well as all the activities that are coming your way. We've had a fun time incorporating the new projector into many aspects of our congregational life. It would be great if we could raise enough extra money this year to augment the sound system and our audio-visual capabilities. You have already seen how it can make a difference in our worship and other things we do. When your visiting steward calls, please welcome the opportunity to talk with him/her.

I'd like to thank every one of you for all that you do for one another and for the fellowship. I am so proud and pleased to be serving as your minister.

In faith and with love
 Deborah

PASSOVER SEDER REDESIGNED

TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 6 P.M.

We will, after all, hold a Passover Seder that will be modeled on the Freedom Seder from the interfaith community in Amherst, Massachusetts with additional material from various sources.

We will celebrate with an organized communal meal where we will request specific foods – very similar to years past. We will also ask for a donation of \$7 per adult and \$4 per child or a maximum of \$18 per family to cover our costs. If you are interested joining with the team helping plan this event please let Deborah know.

The Fellowtarian is the monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester

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REMARKS - RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

Last month I promised an update on the RE Committee's work on creating a Safe Congregation Policy for UFWC. Our current focus is on the safety of the children of the Fellowship. This includes: basic First-Aid precautions and procedures, such as keeping allergens out of snacks, and using plastic gloves when treating cuts; physical safety, such as placing latches on doors where building maintenance equipment and paints are stored, and practicing fire safety and evacuation.; emotional safety (e.g., respectful, well-boundaried interactions); and safety from sexual misconduct

The work we did at our February RE Committee Retreat also began looking into how to protect our children in the remote possibility of a dangerous intruder situation. While this was a difficult conversation, we covered a lot of important ground and came up with a short list of suggestions to bring to the next Fellowship Council meeting.

Some of the safety issues we are concerned with are not related just to the children. If a dangerous individual with intent to harm should enter the building, everyone is potentially at risk. Likewise, child abuse by an adult affects everyone in a community. As we continue the Safe Congregation process, our work will eventually turn to issues affecting the entire congregation.

As the current situation in Japan illustrates, prevention is much easier than coping with a disaster. It is with this in mind that we are working to create a policy. We will recommend procedures for what to do "if," or "in the case of," but first we will do everything we can to prevent a bad situation from happening in the first place.

The situation in Japan also seeps into thinking about how we will observe Earth Day with the children this year. With radiation leaking from injured power plants and fear hanging heavy in the air, focus around the world has turned to the environment. This is not exactly the spirit in which we typically enter into April and observance of Earth Day, but it certainly points to the importance of being good stewards and doing what we can to help the planet, both locally and globally. Perhaps the disaster will prompt renewed interest in

respecting our natural resources as we saw on the first Earth Day, 41 years ago.

How wonderful it is to be part of a group of people that includes the earth in its stated principles and that celebrates the coming of spring; that gathers in joy and reverence to celebrate the warming of the earth and to welcome the beginning of the growing season. Despite difficulties and challenges, it is a happy, hopeful time, full of promise. Welcome, spring!

Pam Baxter
 Director of Religious Education

FINANCIALLY YOURS

Two weeks into our Stewardship campaign and pledges are slowly trickling in. That's the bad news. The good news is that the early returns indicate that people are responding to our appeal to be more generous and help us reach our goal of funding 90% of our budget from pledges. We hope everyone will make the job of our Visiting Stewards easy and pleasant by welcoming their call. And we hope that everyone will join the early pledgers in increasing their contribution so that UFWC stays financially sound and secure.

- Mike Miller, Treasurer

SPRUCE-UP SATURDAY APRIL 30 9 A.M - NOON







We plan to work on:

- · Cementing the front brick steps
- Cleaning the outside of the building
- Working on the handicap handrail
- Plastering the men's room wall
- Dusting the lobby, office, and sanctuary
- Cleaning the windows and mopping the floors
- Clean the RE area
- Vacuuming



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ELECTION OF JPD REP TO UUA BOARD LONG RANGE PLAN NAME STUDY PROGRESS



The Board has continued with an active agenda through January, February and March. In January, Flo Miller, secretary of the Joseph Priestly District of the UUA and UFWC member, met with the Board to provide information about the upcoming election of the JPD's representative to the UUA's 23-member Board of Trustees.

The election will take place at the April 9-10 JPD Annual Meeting in Harrisburg. What happens at the UUA level significantly affects us at the congregation level, particularly in the area of growth. If the UU denomination loses strength or develops more or less of a voice in national affairs, so, likewise, do we. Flo stressed the importance of our having a full, four-person delegation at the annual meeting and of our delegates attending the candidate forums in Germantown, Maryland, and in the Philadelphia area where the candidates will present their qualifications and platforms. The Board decided to hold an information session for the congregation at 10:15 a.m., between services, on April 3.

The Name Study Committee will share a Power Point presentation with the congregation soon. Among other things, the committee has learned that "Fellowship" is not a good descriptor, and our current name does not have the word "Universalist" in it. The committee will provide information to congregants through pamphlets, articles in the Fellowtarian, notices in the Connections, and information in the order of service. In this way, the congregation will have enough information to decide at the Annual Congregational meeting in June whether or not to continue toward the goal of changing our name.

The Board and Executive Team discussed the current draft of the Long Range Plan and voted to accept it at the February meeting. After Board acceptance, the Fellowship Council provided additional comments. The Board will now seek congregational approval the UFWC annual meeting in June.

In February and March Mary Yeager of the Fun and Fellowship Committee and Diane Minka of the Religious Services Committee updated the board on work being done to support UFWC's Mission.

The Board encourages members and friends to share comments and concerns with Board members as well as to attend Board meetings. The Board meets in the office at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. Meeting minutes are posted on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary after Board approval. Members of the Board include Diane Cohle, president; Fred Frayer; Curt Hoganson; Dirk Troltenier: Helena Graham: Rick Marts, vice president; and Sandra Schaal, secretary.

BICARB BISTRO RECAP

Cooks from all over the greater West Chester area showed up at UFWC on February 26 with one thing in mind: to take home the coveted titles of Best Cooks at the Bicarb Bistro. The categories were Soup, Vegetarian Soup, and Cookies. Fifteen cooks in all submitted five entries in each of the categories, having followed the intricate instructions of the Bistro to a tee.

Judges took their roles seriously as they swirled the soup in individually labeled containers and munched on various cookies. The results were as follows:

Vegetarian Soup:

1st prize Jaan Troltenier, Thai Potato Leek Soup 2nd prize Nancy Artus, Carrot Parsnip Soup

3rd prize Elaine Friedlander

Soup:

1st prize Sandy Schaal, Sausage Tortellini

2nd prize Phil Yeager, Sweet Potato Sausage Soup 3rd prize Susana Trendelenburg, Leek Soup

Cookies:

1st prize Jen Feld, Caramel Toffee Chox Cookies

2nd prize Sandy Schaal, Chocolate Chip Cookie Squares

3rd prize Ralph Mero, Chocolate Iced Chocolate Chip Cookies

Congratulations to the winners! And to all the cooks. A huge thanks to all the volunteers who helped with this intensely detailed event and a special thank you to Jen Feld and Mary Yeager who ran the event.

FLEA MARKET RESCHEDULED FOR APRIL 16

HOW TO SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE, SUPPORT UFWC AND BENEFIT THE WEST CHESTER COMMUNITY ...ALL AT THE SAME TIME

Once a year UFWC holds a bazaar – our annual Flea Market – to which members and friends donate "stuff" they no longer need or want. Sales support the UFWC operating budget, and unsold leftovers are donated to area charities for their use or re-sale. The flea market makes low cost items available to our congregation and to our many West Chester neighbors who come to shop every year while it honors the reduce, re-use, re-cycle philosophy.

The flea market will be **Saturday**, **April 16**, **8** a.m. to **1** p.m. Its success year after year has resulted from your generous donations of items to sell, and VERY generous amounts of volunteer effort to receive, sort, price, sell, and clean up afterward.

You can drop off your donations on **Thursday evening, April 14, from 7 to 9 p.m.** at the side (Lacey Street) entrance. Best sellers are jewelry and collectibles, small appliances, kitchenware, household goods, linens, garden tools, and toys. Clothing should

be of consignment store quality. Books are great sellers <u>except for</u> encyclopedias, textbooks, manuals and magazines, which do not sell. Something you no longer need or want will be a prized "find" for someone else. Get rid of all that "stuff" that clutters up your home and your life, and benefit UFWC and the community at the same time.

What happens to leftovers? Volunteers will transport all leftover items to area nonprofits to use or sell, which supports the larger caring community. We welcome your recommendations of groups that can best use various types of items. For example, the SPCA welcomes towels, sheets, and blankets to use as bedding. The Habitat for Humanity "Re-Store" in Coatesville accepts hardware, construction, and home repair items. The AAUW accepts all our unsold books, which they sell to raise scholarship funds. Goodwill accepts nearly everything for their re-sale stores.

Contact Keith Dallara at email: flea-market.

FLEA MARKET VOLUNTEERS

YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

The flea market succeeds only because every year there is such a generous contribution of volunteer time. No special expertise is required. We pool our knowledge and figure it out as we go along (which is part of the fun). We especially encourage new members and friends to volunteer. It's a great way to get to know people.

Join the fun by putting your name on the sign-up sheet during coffee hour or contacting us at email: flea-market.

Thu	Apr 14	5-7 pm	Stack chairs, set up tables/signs
Thu	Apr 14	7-9 pm	Help with drop off and sort
Fri	Apr 15	All day	Sort and price (shift work OK)
Sat	Apr 16	7:30 am-1 pm	Help with the sale (shift work OK)
Sat	Apr 16	1-3 pm	Pack up/transport unsold goods
			Clean and re-set sanctuary

FLEA MARKET DONATION GUIDELINES

Please don't give us anything we will have to pay a fee to dispose of if not sold, such as TV's, anything containing Freon, computers, and other electronics. Large furniture is also a problem.

Don't create a problem for the Fellowship by donating items that might pose a liability risk such as baby furniture, medical or personal care items, or sports/ exercise equipment.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has increased emphasis

on compliance by "re-sale" organizations including **church flea markets**. If we cannot ensure that products are safe we CANNOT sell them. Concern is focused especially on children's furniture, toys, clothing, and jewelry. Even the ink in older books for children might contain lead or phthalates.

Contact Keith Dallara at email: flea-market.

WEST CHESTER FOOD CUPBOARD FLEA MARKET BAKE SALE

Positioned just where people are exiting the flea market will be a table full of tempting baked goodies – prepared by you. Income from the bake sale benefits the local West Chester Food Cupboard. Bring your cookies, brownies, cakes, breads, and other pastries to the Flea Market Saturday morning. Then stay and shop. Contact Keith Dallara at email: flea-market.

STONES IN THE SAME WALL - SOCIAL JUSTICE

SUSTAINABLE LIVING NEWS

Honor Dianne Herrin

Chester County Citizens for Climate Protection will honor UFWC member, Dianne Herrin, for her climate change work with BLUER. Wednesday, April 13, 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m., Downingtown Country Club. Reserve before April 6, \$30 per person, www.chescocooler.org

Composting

Kitchen and yard waste contribute to global warming. When these wastes are put into landfills, they don't decompose properly and create methane gas, a potent greenhouse gas. Several members of the congregation can teach you how to compost instead. Contact Diane Maguire.

Legislation

US House Bill 97, which would permanently prevent the EPA from limiting carbon pollution, has been co-sponsored by Rep. Jim Gerlach, 6th district. If you are in his district, contact Gerlach to express your concern http://gerlach.house.gov. In another district? Contact your representative, and ask him/her to vote against this bill. Find your rep at www.house.gov.

Recycling

Computer, electronics recycling and household appliance disposal: West Chester Borough Hall parking lot, 401 E. Gay St. Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Free for borough residents and businesses. More information: Meghan Fogarty, 610-696-5282 or mfogarty@west-chester.com.

Household hazardous waste dropoff, Saturday, April 9, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., CAT Pickering Campus,1580 Charlestown Road, Phoenixville. Computers accepted. More information: www.chestercountyswa.org

New members are welcome to join the Sustainable Living Committee. Contact Charlot Barker at email: sustainable-living

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION

This month's suggested items: Rice and sides such as Rice-a-Roni and Stovetop Stuffing

Our monthly food collection is Sunday, April 3. Look for collection baskets in the lobby. We participate in a special program that assures the food bank of specific items on any given month, so please keep this month's needs in mind when you donate – see above. As always, other donations are gratefully accepted too. Reminder: Please check expiration dates. Items past expiration cannot be distributed.

Also, financial donations for food may be put in the collection plate on any Sunday morning. Please write checks to UFWC and write "Food Cupboard" in the memo line. Financial donations will be converted into grocery gift cards.

We are an important source of support for the West Chester Food Cupboard, which is an all-volunteer organization in West Chester.

UUSC UPDATE

WE DID IT! In late November of last year, we asked several members of the congregation who had given to UUSC (U. U. Service Committee) in the past to advance some money to be matched by the congregation-at-large. We got this idea from UUSC headquarters. They had worked with a large congregation in Minnesota that had raised \$2,000 to be matched. We were flabbergasted when we got \$3,500. So the gauntlet had been dropped: we had to ask the congregation to match that amount. Well, we did it. We raised over \$7,000 for UUSC during the Guest at Your Table drive thanks to your generosity. In addition, contributions greater than or equal to \$100 are matched by the Shelter Rock grant, resulting in up to \$14,000 going to help the disadvantaged around the world. Take a look at the UUSC website (uusc.org) to find out exactly where your dollars go and to learn more about this great organization. THANK YOU, AGAIN.



Please visit the UUSC website to learn more about and to donate to the UUA-UUSC joint Japan Relief Fund.



MOVIE NIGHT APRIL 16

We will show the film Jesus of Montreal on Saturday night, April 16, at 7 p.m. "A group of actors put on an unorthodox, but acclaimed Passion Play which incites the opposition of the Catholic Church while the actors' lives themselves begin to mirror the Passion." For more information, check it out on IMDB.com

The film is in French with English subtitles. This film is for "mature" audiences only.



MEDITATION GROUP

The first meeting of the meditation group will be on Sunday, April 17, at 5 p.m. All are welcome. Contact Harriet Singer at email: meditation.



FOLK SINGING

The next folk singing get-to-gether is Saturday, April 23, 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. Maps are in the foyer. Contact Steve at email: folk-singing.

EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

APRIL 10 7-8:30 PM

Mennonite in a Little Black Dress, a memoir by Rhoda Janzen, gives us a view into the life and beliefs of her Mennonite family and what Janzen experiences after she returns home to recover from a car accident and recent divorce. Dena Beeghly will facilitate our discussion.

For more information please contact us at email: diversity-book-group, or call Shelly Case or Ruth MacFadyen. All are Welcome.

LUNCH GROUP

Lunch group will meet Friday, April 8, 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.

GAME NIGHT

Our next Potluck and Game night will be on Friday, April 1, in the Fellowship sanctuary. Join us at 6:30 p.m. for dinner or after 7 p.m. for games. Everyone is welcome – families, individuals, couples, children.

Bring a **dish and beverage** to share. While you are making a list – bring a friend too. We send out an email reminder a few days before to those who are regulars. If you would like a reminder, just send a request to email: game-night. Contact Mary Yeager at the above email.

ART GOES TO THE FELLOWSHIP

A member of our Fellowship family is a trained docent and would like to host an interactive "tour" of some major artists. Fun and Fellowship is sponsoring this afternoon discussion on April 2 from 2:30 - 4 p.m. It is free of charge, but space is limited, so RSVP by March 27 to Jaan Troltenier. For more details see the March *Fellowtarian*.

COFFEE HOUSE

Next coffee house is Saturday, April 9, at 7 p.m. The featured act is singer song writer Jack Greenwald, performer of Scottish folk music.

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

All email addresses @ufwc.org unless otherwise noted.

Apr 1	Fri	Potluck and Game Night. 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 7.
Apr 2	Sat	Art Goes to the Fellowship. 2:30-4 p.m. Offsite. See p. 7.
Apr 3	Sun	First Sunday Food Collection. Lobby. See p. 6.
•		Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal. 10:10 a.m. Downstairs. Contact Abby McGillivary, email:
		intergenerational-choir.
		Membership Committee. 12:15 p.m. Office. Contact Barbara Long, email: membership.
		Discussion of UUA Candidates for JPD Assembly . 12:30 p.m. Sanctuary. Contact Flo Miller, email: denominational-affairs. See March <i>Fellowtarian</i> , p. 4.
Anr 6	Wed	Religious Education Committee. 7 p.m. Youth Group Rm. Contact Clarke Arnold, email: RE
Apr 6	Fri	
Apr 8		Lunch Group. 11:30 a.m. Panera Bread. See p. 7.
Apr 9	Sat Sum	Coffee House. 7 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 7.
Apr 9-10	Sat-Sun	2011 JPD District Assembly. Stewards of Faith: Justice Making, Leadership Development and All Ages Ministry. Harrisburg. Information/Registration: jpduua.org.
Apr 10	Sun	Safe Harbor Dinner. 6 p.m. Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. To
		help, contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: safe-harbor
		Exploring Diversity Book Group. 7-8:30 p.m. Office. See p. 7.
Apr 12	Tue	Board Meeting. 7 p.m. Office. All are welcome. Contact Diane Cohle, email: president
Apr 14	Thu	Flea Market Setup/Dropoff. 5-9 p.m. Contact Keith Dallara, email: flea-market. See p. 5.
		Social Justice Committee. 7:15-9 p.m. Office. Contact Ed Cohle, email: social-justice.
Apr 15	Fri	Flea Market Sorting/Pricing. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sanctuary. Contact Keith Dallara, email:
		flea-market. See p. 5.
Apr 16	Sat	Flea Market. 8 a.m – 1 p.m. Sanctuary. Contact Keith Dallara, email: flea-market. See p. 5.
		Flea Market Cleanup. 1-3 p.m. Sanctuary. Contact Keith Dallara, email: flea-market. See p. 5.
		Movie Night. 8 p.m. Sanctuary. Jesus of Montréal (Rated R). See p. 7.
Apr 17	Sun	Share the Plate Sunday. Benefits Maternal & Child Health Consortium of Chester Co. See p. 6.
		Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal. 10:10 a.m. Downstairs. Contact Abby McGillivary, email:
		intergenerational-choir.
		Fun and Fellowship Committee. 10:15-11:15 a.m. Office.
		Name Study Committee Repeat Presentation. 12:20 p.m. Office. Email: program.
		Meditation Group. 5 p.m. Sanctuary. Contact Harriet Singer or Deanna Gabe, email: meditation. See p. 7.
Apr 18	Mon	Women's Circle. 7-9 p.m. Youth Group Room. Contact Debby Kern, email: women's-circle
		Men's Study Group. 7:30 p.m. Office.
Apr 19	Tue	Seder. 6 p.m. Sanctuary. Contact Rev. Mero, email: minister
Apr 21	Thu	Religious Services Committee. 7:30 p.m. Office. Contact Gerry Giess or Diane Minka, email:
		religious-services.
Apr 23	Sat	Folk Singing. 8 p.m. at the home of Steve and Linda Sander. See p. 7.
Apr 26	Tue	Fellowship Council. 7-8:30 p.m. Office. Contact Mark Steel, email: program
Apr 27	Wed	Parent Support Group. 7 p.m. Office. Contact Sharon Meyer-Conroy, email: parent-support
Apr 30	Sat	Spruce-Up Saturday Work Party. 9 a.m noon. Contact Mark Steel, email: building. See p. 3.
Groups meeting multiple times in a month:		

Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

Adult RE The Necessity of Virtue. Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. through April 13. Sanctuary.

Spirit Singers Practices 7:30-9 p.m., **g**enerally the three Thursdays before the third Sunday (when

they sing at services). Contact Helen Meacham, email: choir

Youth Group Most Sundays, 10:45-noon. Youth Group Room. Email: youth-group.