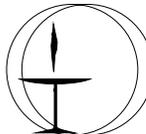


UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP OF WEST CHESTER
501 S HIGH ST
WEST CHESTER PA 19382

 **the**
FELLOWTARIAN

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

May 2011

May 1

**MAY DAY – PLAY DAY
INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE**

**Rev. Deborah Mero and
Pam Baxter, DRE**

“When King Birtram worked, he really worked...but when he played, he really played!” Even busy kings know how important it is to take time for play. When we play we relax, connect with our inner, creative self, and return to our work refreshed and inspired. Join us this May 1 for a deeper look at this thing we call “play.” We’ll hear a Dr. Seuss story, enjoy some games that Baby Boomers and older generations will remember, and usher in spring with a dance around the Maypole. This is a service for children of ALL ages.

May 8

INCH BY INCH, ROW BY ROW

Cindy Heck and Heidi Frayer

Mother’s Day provides an opportunity to consider the ways in which we nurture in each aspect of our lives. Cindy and Heidi will discuss the parallels that exist between gardening and motherhood, with all the joy, frustration, and satisfaction these endeavors bring.

May 15

WE’RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

Rev. Deborah Mero

Or at least that’s what most of us signed up for. The social ethic has been taking a drastic turn for the worse over the last 3 decades. What happened to the social safety net? What happened to the religious ethic of caring for the least of us? Can we survive in a society based on winners and losers?

May 22

MUSIC SUNDAY

The Spirit Singers

Please join our choir director, Helen Meacham and our adult choir, The Spirit Singers, as we celebrate the important role of music in our worship services. This will be Helen’s last Sunday with us as choir director. She will look back on almost 25 years of memories working in a number of UU churches.

May 29

HERE? OR THE HEREAFTER?

Rev. Deborah Mero

On this weekend when we remember those lost in wars past and current, we will look at, “crossing the bar,” or making that last passage. What might await us on the other side – if there is another side?

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

THE SONG OF DEBORAH

Every time I go to an extended meeting of my colleagues or a denominational event I return home with some great insights or some new ideas. This year has been filled with many such gifts.

In February when I joined with 350 of my colleagues in Monterey I was privileged to be in a small group of 25 where we spent the week in depth talking about preaching and looking at our own and one another's work. Our conversation centered around how we communicate in this new age where we are all multi-taskers.

I had one of those "aha" moments. Once our sanctuaries were filled with people who expected scholarly discourse on Sunday morning with lots of quotes. They were then eager to read the printed sermon afterwards.

Now to communicate with younger people, images and visual communication is essential. A good sermon can be done with words alone and often is, but imagery, whether projected or described, is essential. As those of you who are coming on Sunday mornings can tell, I'm experimenting with "visual aids." It is opening up some new ways of thinking for me, and I hope you are finding it helpful as well.

If any of you have an interest in collaborating with me on

occasion with this work, I'd love to hear from you.

In addition to my Monterey experience I have learned of some of the successful programs instituted in congregations in the district. Thanks to one of my colleague's hard work in putting together a course for her congregation in Death and Dying, our Pastoral Care team is now planning to offer a similar course for us next fall. More information will be forthcoming on that.

At the JPD meeting Mark Steel and I attended a workshop done by members of the Center County congregation in State College. They instituted a program five or six years ago of "Hospitality Teams" that has been a real winner for them. It has re-engaged people who had become inactive. It has provided a quick way to connect for new people. Mark and I left the workshop eager to talk about it with you. And we will.

It is exciting to share information and glean new ideas. But more than that, it is gratifying to have the engagement and involvement of the wonderful leaders we have at UFWC. We had

a delegation of 9 people at the JPD meeting, all of whom are wonderfully talented and dedicated souls. We feel good about the work we are doing together. And we always return energized and grateful to be part of our own congregation.

As those of you who are coming on Sunday mornings can tell, I'm experimenting with "visual aids." It is opening up some new ways of thinking for me, and I hope you are finding it helpful as well.

In Harrisburg with me that weekend were Flo and Mike Miller, Mark and Marie Steel, Diane and Ed Cohle, Pam Baxter and Ralph. We also had Dan Meyer and Dorothy Wavrek with our fabulous youth.

And I would be remiss if I didn't congratulate our Youth Advisors, our Youth, and the entire congregation that supports them. Our Youth Group received their 8th consecutive YES Award – a record for any congregation. We are raising a generation of talented and empowered young people who undoubtedly will be fine citizens and good people when they enter adulthood. They remind us constantly that our vision and our mission are important.

With abiding gratitude for all you do and for who you are, members and friends of the UFWC – Peace and thanks,

– Deborah

CONGRATULATIONS, DIANNE HERRIN

Congratulations to our own Dianne Herrin for winning the Gene Wilson Award given by the Chester County Citizens for Environmental Protection. *The Daily Local News* had a good story on it – online at www.dailylocal.com/articles/2011/04/14/news/srv0000011411546.txt?viewmode=fullstory – also posted on the bulletin board in the sanctuary.

REmarks – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

Last year, we created a communication tool we call the “HomeLink.” Each week, teachers write a brief summary of what happened in their class and send it to me. I compile the reports into a single document and email it to all the RE parents to keep them up to date on what their children are talking about and learning in their Religious Education classes. It’s a rich and inspiring batch of reports that I get to read through each week.

Last month, one report made such an impact on me that I decided to share it here. So, here’s a little glimpse of what went on in the 3rd/4th/5th grade class on April 10, led by teacher Rick London, who sent the following report to me.

“The lesson for this week was on privilege and sharing. The lesson centered around the little known story of Juliette Morgan of Montgomery, Alabama in the late 1940s and 1950s.

“Juliette was a respected town librarian and school teacher. Above all, Juliette Morgan was a woman of wealth, status, education and connections in Montgomery’s segregated South. Juliette became alarmed that while she was provided great privilege and respect in all aspects of public life, blacks were treated with no entitlement to the same respect. So she began writing letters in the local paper pointing out the injustice.

“These letters did not lead to a good end. Juliette endured letters of hate. She lost her jobs, was physically threatened and shunned by her family and friends for stating her beliefs on injustice. She died alone and unwanted by her family and friends. A sad chapter in Montgomery history and that preceded Rosa Parks’ famous bus ride in Montgomery by six months.

“The lesson was that when you’re provided with so much, you should appreciate what you have and share what you don’t need.

“Each child was asked to stand and tell the class of the things they felt privileged to have, and what others may not have. The answers would impress the parents: a house, food, money, love, safety, toys...it was wonderful to hear how aware they were of the things we all take for granted.

“To end the session, I surprised them each with a gift (purchased at 5 Below). And handed out toys, toothbrushes, socks etc. Everyone was given “a gift” from me. Of course I brought up what this lesson was about and did they really need these things. No one groaned when I asked what would be a better thing to do with their gift: drop it in the West Chester Food Cupboard bin so that someone who doesn’t have these things, and can use them will benefit. So everyone marched upstairs to drop their present in the bin.”

Thank you to Rick London, and to all the other RE teachers, for bringing these lessons alive for our children, and helping to create our vision of “open minds, loving hearts and helping hands.”

(The lesson on Juliette Morgan is from the curriculum, “Windows and Mirrors,” published online by the UUA.)

– Pam Baxter, Director of Religious Ed.

CHALICE LIGHTER HONORS

Thanks to the enthusiastic response to our Chalice Lighters’ membership drive last fall, the Fellowship has been named an Honor Society in the Joseph Priestley District Chalice Lighters Program. The recognition came at the recent District Assembly and Annual Meeting in Harrisburg.

Of 69 societies in our District, only three exceeded our congregational rate of 41% participation in the program. The cut-off for recognition as an Honor Society was 33% participation.

Chalice Lighters is a program that awards grants to congregations for growth-related activities. Members of Chalice Lighters give a minimum of \$20 three times a year for “calls” to fund grants to congregations. Our own Fellowship has benefitted from several Chalice Lighter grants in the past.

The Fellowship was also recognized at the District Assembly for paying our full Fair Share Dues to both the District and to the Unitarian Universalist Association.

We can indeed be proud of our record of support for the JPD and the UUA. If you have any questions about this or other denominational issues, please ask me.

–Flo Miller
Denominational Affairs Chair



SEDER THANKS

Thanks and kudos to Karen Wertz, Helena Graham and Julianne O’Neill who helped plan this year’s Seder. A good time was had – and good food too!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am writing this after just returning from the 2011 Joseph Priestley District (JPD) Assembly, “Stewards of Faith: Justice Making, Leadership Development, and All-Ages Ministry”. Sometimes we get so focused on our own UFWC that we forget that we are part of bigger organizations – the JPD and the UUA. And they have much to offer.

One of the exciting parts of the conference was the vote at the annual JPD meeting for trustee to the UUA board. Natalia Averett was elected. “Natty” is the chair of the board at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, Virginia. She has been a UU for 17 years and wants all congregations coast-to-coast to become life-affirming, justice-seeking, multicultural, loving, supportive and spiritual-, intellectually- and ethically-challenging communities.

Upon arrival at the JPD, I heard the wonderful news that the UFWC was a Chalice lighter honor society congregation. This recognition is given to congregations who have more than 40% of their members enrolled in chalice lighters. Other good news was that UFWC received the YES (Youth Empowering and Supportive Congregation) award. It’s a District award that was earned by our youth for their involvement in our congregation, community and district. Congratulations to our youth for receiving this honor for the **eighth consecutive year**.

On Saturday, I attended a workshop by Rev. Renee Ruchotzke entitled “From Nominating Committee to Leadership Development Team”. This model of “leadership development committees” uses various leadership development principles to explore how to create a congregational culture of continuous, intentional lead-

ership development and adaptive learning. JPD will sponsor a conference for congregations in the District to learn more about this idea. The conference will be here at the UFWC on Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please let me know if you would like to attend.

I also participated in the workshop “Seven Steps to Successful Stewardship.” The session described a successful stewardship program focusing on the mission. According to Joan Priest who conducted this workshop, we seem to be doing many things correctly as we hold our annual stewardships campaigns. One thing that congregations are moving towards is stewardship being year-round efforts. As others are doing in the JPD

District, I hope we can investigate this idea further in the coming months.

The annual UUA Assembly will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina, on June 22-26. UFWC can have a voice there, and we can send delegates. Please let me know if you are planning to attend.

The JPD and the UUA can help us become a stronger organization and help us grow. We should remember to reach out and use their resources. We should also continue to fulfill our obligations to them through our financial support and attendance at future trainings, meetings and conferences.

– Committed to working with you
to achieve our mission,
Diane



POSITIONS AVAILABLE

With the departure of our Choir Director and Pianist we are actively seeking replacements. If you know of any talented musicians please respond to email: music with resumes of qualified individuals.

CHOIR DIRECTOR - Approximately 20 hours per month for approximately 10 months of the year – August through May.

PIANIST/HYMNIST - Approximately 5 hours per week for 10 months – September through June. We are also looking for an interim summer Pianist/hymnist for June through August (one service per week) for approximately 10 weeks.

Links to both job postings can be found our home page at www.uffwc.org.

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

501 S. High St., West Chester, PA 19382

Web: www.uffwc.org

Rev. Deborah Mero, Minister 610-692-4043 email: minister

Barbara Robinson, Office Administrator 610-692-5966 email: office

Diane Cohle, President email: president

Pam Baxter, Dir. of Religious Ed email: dre

Steve and Linda Sander, Editors email: fellowtarian

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: REPORTS FROM THE RE TEAM AND JPD CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

The Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, April 12, 2011. Members of the Board participated in a simulated children's worship service and then toured the Religious Education classrooms as part of the Religious Education Team update to the Board. The RE space is warm and inviting and full of evidence of an active, creative, and engaging religious education program for our children. All three pillars of the UFWC mission are the focus of the RE program so their task is a challenging one. It is well worth the trip downstairs to see the wonderful things our children are doing.

A number of Board and Executive Team members who attended the JPD Conference earlier in April shared what they experienced and learned with the Board. Among the ideas gleaned from the various workshops and events were a number of strategies about ways to "build meaningful connections" while organizing for better use of the human resources of our community. Workshops on immigration, breakfast programs, and an on-going relationship with communities in Nicaragua are among the many that gave participants a feel for what some other congregations are doing to promote social justice.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the Long Range Plan. In May, discussion of steps towards implementation of the Long Range Plan will begin.

The Board encourages UFWC members and friends to share comments and concerns with Board members, as well as to attend Board meetings if interested. The Board meets in the office at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. Meeting minutes are posted on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary after being approved by the Board. Members of the Board include Diane Cohle, president; Fred Frayer; Curt Hoganson; Dirk Troltenier; Helena Graham; Rick Marts, vice president; and Sandra Schaal, secretary.

2011 FLEA MARKET SUCCESS

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all the members and friends of the Fellowship for your donations and patronage. You certainly helped to make the flea market a success. I would publicly like to thank former flea market coordinator Sue Stedman for her help and guidance in the whole process. The large number of volunteers was also responsible for such a successful venture.

The amount sold at the flea market presently is a little under \$700, and Lauren Kelly earned close to \$50 for the Food Cupboard through the bake sale.

An added bonus was that our Chester County neighbors got the benefit of affordable items, and we were able to recycle and reuse your contributions that could have easily ended up in our landfills. This was a win-win for all involved.

Once again, thanks to the many members and friends who made this a success by helping with the setup, pricing, sale, and clean-up.

– Keith Dallara

FINANCIALLY YOURS

I'm pleased to report that many of you are answering the call to support our Fellowship with a bigger financial commitment this year. While we still have a way to go to complete our annual budget drive, almost 60% of members and friends who have thus far made a financial commitment have generously increased their giving. This demonstrates that you care about our religious community, and you see the worth in sustaining it and helping it to grow. Thank you to every one of you, and thank you to the Visiting Stewards who have given their time to achieve this result.

If you are not among those who have decided on a contribution, please do so soon. This is the time of year when we have to make up our budget for the coming year starting July 1, and we need to know the amount of income we can count on. Pledges make up 70% of our income, so every dollar counts. If you have not yet been contacted by a Visiting Steward, please expect and welcome a call shortly. Or even take a proactive approach and see one of the Stewardship Committee members – Dirk Troltenier, Gerry Giess, Jim MacFadyen, Sandy Retzlaff, Ralph Mero and Mike Miller. They can answer your questions and help to add your pledge to those of your fellow members and friends.

– Mike Miller, Treasurer

NATALIA AVERETT ELECTED TO UUA BOARD

Natalia Averett, a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, Virginia, and president of that church's board, has been elected to represent our Joseph Priestley District (JPD) on the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Natalia won 68 of the 132 votes cast by delegates to the JPD's Annual Meeting on April 9 in Harrisburg. West Chester was represented by five delegates: Mike Miller, Mark Steel, and Ed and Diane Cohle were our lay delegates, and Deborah Mero represented us as a ministerial delegate.

The election was fairly close, with Elyse Reznick, a former president of the JPD Board and a member of First Unitarian Church of Wilmington, Delaware, garnering 56 votes. The remainder of the votes went to Ken Shilling, a member of the Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Bowie, Delaware.

Natalia will serve on a UUA Board for which major changes are contemplated, including a possible reduction in size of the Board from its current 26 members to 14. All members with the exception of the officers would be elected at large. The proposal to make this change will be on the agenda for the General Assembly of the UUA in Charlotte, North Carolina in June; if approved, Natalia would become the last representative from our district on the UUA Board.

If you have any questions about this or the Annual Meeting in general, please see one of the delegates.

– Flo Miller
Denominational Affairs Chair

YOUTH GROUP

Not only is the UFWC Youth Group amazing – it's now unparalleled! In April, the Fellowship was acknowledged by the Joseph Priestley District as a Youth Empowering & Supportive congregation. That's right, we won another YES Award. This is the eighth consecutive year that UFWC and its youth have won this award, which is given to celebrate a congregation's support of varied, enriching and youth-empowering programming. In the eleven year history of the YES Awards, NO other congregation has won eight. Congratulations to all and thanks for such incredible dedication.

We also brought a delegation of youth to the JPD youth CON in Harrisburg for a weekend of worship, music, work and incredible connection with teens and adults from many other congregations in the district. Congratulations to Erin Steel, who was elected by the youth of the District to serve as a Youth Co-Chair for 2011-2012, and to Kendra Sweitzer who was elected to serve as Workshop Coordinator for District CONs in 2011-2012.

What's happening in May? In addition to intense discussions and the usual dose of fun at our weekly meetings, we'll host a Battle of the Bands on May 21 in the sanctuary, with proceeds going to charity. Come hear local bands perform, 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Join us downstairs in the Youth Room at 10:45 on Sunday mornings. Questions? Want to get on our e-mail list? Contact us at email: youth-group.

FROM THE CHOIR DIRECTOR

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the congregation for giving me the opportunity to serve as choir director for these past three years. It has been a wonderful journey. I have found the members of the choir to be a willing and gifted ensemble, and we have shared many happy times, as well as some profoundly sad ones. I am not saying goodbye, though. I'll still be in the congregation and perhaps even singing in the choir myself. And as always, I'd like to extend an invitation to come join us in our singing in May. We'll be rehearsing at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary on May 5, 12 and 19 and then singing on the 22nd. (We particularly need basses and tenors, by the way.) Thank you for your support of the music program here at UFWC.

– Helen Meacham

GROCERY STORE CARD PROGRAM

It's easy – you purchase a gift card from UFWC to use in a participating grocery store. Spend the full amount exactly like cash while the Fellowship earns 5% of the value of the card.

For example, you buy \$100 worth of grocery cards for \$100. You use them like cash at the store for \$100 worth of goods. But the Fellowship has only paid \$95 for the cards, so we earn \$5.

Giant, Acme, Shoprite and Superfresh participate and give us the discount. See us after each service during refreshments. Simply write a check to UFWC or use cash, to buy cards for the stores of your choice. We'll answer any questions you might have.

Rob Sartain, email: grocery-program

STONES IN THE SAME WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

Each event, each action is another stone in the wall of social justice

I decided to clip this passage from an article that Mary Yeager wrote because it really resonated with me. “For many of us, watching things grow is a spiritual experience. The modern world has evolved in such a manner that unless we make a conscious effort we can become separated from the natural world. Gardening can help us keep in touch with the “real” world. We hope that you see this project as an opportunity to help those in need in our area and a chance to reconnect with the web of life that keeps us all going. We invite you to come along and get your hands dirty raising this nutritious food for those in need.” What a great invitation to help with our very own gleaning project (see her article below).

I love the Spring with its theme of rebirth. All vegetation coming to life with leaves, flowers and a general sense of vitality. For me, it’s a hopeful time of year. An opportunity for us to be the best we can be. Peace, justice, love, concern, understanding, hope and compassion are but a few qualities of our collective humanness that connect us to each other and to the earth itself. These qualities are so important in combating the suffering, injustice, hardship, etc. that are often visited upon individuals or whole segments of our society and the world.

Many of you have volunteered your time and treasure through our social justice efforts. The Social Justice Committee hopes to offer some additional opportunities in the coming year. For those who haven’t been involved as much as they would like, there’s no time like the Spring to renew your commitment to making this world a better place.

– Ed Cohle, Social Justice Chair

SHARE-THE-PLATE GENEROSITY

The share-the-plate contribution for April was given to the UUA-UUSC Japan Relief Fund. Much thanks to all who have contributed and continue to contribute so generously. We are pleased to announce the share-the-plate recipient on May 15 (third Sunday of the month), the **West Chester Food Cupboard**. The Food Cupboard provides needed food to those who may not be able provide adequate meals for themselves and their families.

WHERE DID EVERYBODY GO?

According to information on the UUA website, “In the late 1960s and early 1970s the General Assembly voted to contribute \$1,000,000 to black economic development, and to be distributed by black Unitarian Universalists. Only half of the promised money was ever paid.” Many African-Americans left our congregations as a result of this unfulfilled promise.

Recognizing that the time is now for reconciliation, the UUA developed the *Journey Toward Wholeness* path. *Journey Toward Wholeness* is the name for the UUA’s entire anti-oppression, anti-racism multicultural initiative. *Journey Toward Wholeness* reflects a common, overarching process grounding our transformation and includes all of the programs, resources, strategies, committees, resolutions and alliances that make up Unitarian Universalism’s anti-oppression efforts.

If you’re curious about what the UUA is doing to combat racial, cultural, and sexual oppression, please join the Embracing Diversity Team for a viewing of the JTW (Journey Towards Wholeness) DVD on Sunday May 1 at 12:30 p.m. after the service.

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION PROJECT

**This month’s
Suggested Items:
Condiments
(mayonnaise,
mustard, ketchup,
salad dressing)**

Our monthly food collection is on Sunday, May 1. 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 headline. As always, other donations are gratefully accepted, too. Reminder: Please check expiration dates. **Items past expiration cannot be distributed.**

THE NOT-SO-SECRET GARDEN

In May of last year, we began what we hope will be a permanent activity here at the Fellowship. A relative of a member offered the use of some garden space for the Fellowship to have its own garden to supply food for the Chester County Food Bank. We harvested almost 1,200 pounds of sweet potatoes from that garden last fall. The Food Bank was ecstatic about our donation – just think – that many sweet potatoes would feed over 2000 people.

May is here again and many of us are thinking of green growing things. This year we will again grow sweet potatoes at the same location in a slightly smaller garden plot (40' x 40'). We will prepare the garden plot on Saturday, May 14. The following Saturday, May 21, we will plant the sweet potatoes. Through the summer, there will be some mulching and weeding to do. Then in September we get to dig for sweet potato gold.

Some of the gardening is particularly hard work – preparing the ground in May and digging the roots in the fall requires a healthy back. Planting the sweet potatoes and weeding is much less strenuous. Please keep your abilities in mind when you come to help.

Planned gardening dates such as May 14 and May 21 (9-12 a.m.) will be published in Connections, but you are welcome to come by other times and pull some weeds. If you are interested in helping on the 14th or 21st, or if you want to be placed on the list of volunteers, please email or call Tom Townsend (email: gleaning). You will be contacted when help is needed and you can decide whether or not you are available that day.

In May, look for our presentation board in the back of Fellowship with pictures chronicling the progress of last year's project. Everyone who participated thought that this was a fun and wonderful chance to work together to help our community.

FYI - We chose sweet potatoes because once established and mulched they require little care through the summer. They are a good source of vitamin A, protein, fiber, and many other nutrients – arguably on the list of the ten best foods. Not only is the sweet potato's protein content relatively high for a vegetable, it has a well-balanced amino acid profile. It is a great choice for helping our neighbors in need.

IF I HAD A HAMMER

Several people joined the efforts at the Coatesville construction site on Saturday, March 19, to help build a Habitat for Humanity house. Charlot Barker, one of those volunteering, describes climbing a ladder to do work on the second story: "One of the great things about helping is that you get to learn a bit about building a house even though you may not have a specific skill." (They will guide you on what to do.)



The next date that we have scheduled for UFWC participation is July 9. Stay tuned for further information as we get closer to that date. The dedication of the HFH volunteers continues to be inspiring.

EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

MAY 8 7:00-8:30 PM

The Help, by Kathryn Stockett, is set in Jackson, Mississippi in the 1960's. It is the story of a young white woman and a group of black maids who work for the families of her friends. This is a book about racism and the struggles that the women both black and white must face as they try to either accept or resist the written and unwritten rules that limit their lives. Some reviews suggest that the book itself has racist overtones. Shelly Case will lead the discussion.

Come to the book group; we have a lively discussion planned. We meet Sunday May 8 at 7 p.m. upstairs in the office. (Yes it is Mother's Day...sorry.) If you have questions, please contact Ruth MacFadyen or Shelly Case, or email: diversity-book-group. All are welcome.

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP UNDERWAY

Guys interested in exploring men's issues in changing times are invited to meet on Monday evenings May 16 and June 20 at the Fellowship, upstairs, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. The topic for May is, "Employment, Unemployment, and the Meaning of Work." The group will meet monthly for an ongoing conversation. If you would like to take part, please contact Ralph Mero at email: mens-group.

SQUARE DANCE WITH A GERMAN ACCENT

On the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, May 29, from 7:30 - 9 p.m., Fun and Fellowship is hosting a square dance at UFWC. Our caller is Stefan Manger, a native of Germany who was trained and certified as a square dance caller at Gemener Burgtänzer in Borken in 1988. He has taught and led many square dances since then throughout Germany and in London. Now he lives in Exton and calls dances locally with a German accent and a dose of humor.

No experience is necessary; all dances are taught. Bringing a partner is not necessary; in fact, you will be encouraged to change partners, so you get to meet and dance with lots of people. The dress is comfortable and casual; shoes should also be comfortable. Dress light – it gets warm dancing. Men who sweat easily may want to bring some spare shirts to change into. Lots of ice water will be provided, as well as other beverages for a small donation.

Come enjoy this great activity and be part of a living tradition. Whether you come alone, with a friend or bring your entire family (children and grandparents love it), you'll have an evening you won't soon forget. Admission is \$5/adult, \$2/child. For more information, contact Nancy Artus at email: community-dances. If you can walk, you can dance!

LUNCH GROUP

Lunch group will meet Friday, May 13, 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.



This is the last lunch group till September. We will take a summer vacation break this year.

FOLK SINGING

The next folk singing get-together is Saturday, May 28, 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.

POTLUCK AND GAME NIGHT

Celebrate the end of the week with your Fellowship family, by joining us on Friday, May 6, for a potluck dinner and games in our Fellowship. Some of us like to play old favorites like Scrabble or Uno, while others prefer to try something new like Dominion, or Werewolf. Maybe you want to just sit and chat or knit. Whatever you want – it's OK. We just want you to know that you are welcome – by yourself or with a friend.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and we finish up between 9 and 10 p.m. We provide the paper products. You bring some dinner and beverage to share – make a family favorite or pick up some take-out on your way. Either way, keep it simple, so you can relax and enjoy yourself. If you have any questions, contact Mary Yeager by phone or email: fun.

BROWN BAG PICNIC AND PHOTO OP

Join us on Sunday, May 15, from 12:30-3:00 p.m., for a Brown Bag Picnic at West Goshen Community Park. Outdoor games like bocce or horseshoes will be fun, so bring them if you have them. There are picnic tables and benches, but you might like to bring a lawn chair. Dogs are welcome as long as they are leashed.

Participate in group games like volleyball, or just relax and enjoy the fresh air and conversation. We will take a group photo at the park, so we hope you will be there to be included. We will provide the lemonade, ice tea, water, and paper products. This picnic is not potluck; you bring whatever your family wants – sandwiches, fried chicken, salad – for your family to eat. Charcoal grills are available but you must provide the charcoal and tools if you want to use them.

The park is located just east of West Chester at the intersection of N. Five Points and Fernhill Rds, which is less than a mile north of Paoli Pike. See *Connections* in May for a link to the map, if you need directions, or contact Mary Yeager at email:fun. We are asking a \$2/person donation to cover the cost of renting the park. In case of rain, we will enjoy our lunch in the Fellowship sanctuary.

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

All email addresses @ufwc.org unless otherwise noted.

May 1	Sun	First Sunday Food Collection. Lobby. See p. 7. Journey Toward Wholeness DVD. Presented by the Embracing Diversity Team. 12:30 p.m. Office. See p. 7.
May 2	Mon	Embracing Diversity Team. 7 p.m. Office. Contact Helena Graham email: embracing-diversity
May 4	Wed	Religious Education Committee. 7 p.m. Youth Group Room. Contact Clarke Arnold, email: RE
May 6	Fri	Potluck and Game Night. 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 9.
May 8	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. 8.
May 10	Tue	Board Meeting. 7 p.m. Office. All are welcome. Contact Diane Cohle, email: president
May 12	Thu	Social Justice Committee. 7:15-9 p.m. Office. Contact Ed Cohle, email: social-justice
May 13	Fri	Lunch Group. 11:30 a.m. Panera Bread. See p. 9.
May 14	Sat	Prepare Our Food Bank Garden. 9 a.m. - noon. See p. 8. JPD Leadership Conference. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 4. Coffee House. 7 p.m. Sanctuary. Contact Judy Perri email: coffee-house
May 15	Sun	Share the Plate Sunday. Benefits West Chester Food Cupboard. See p. 7. Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal. 10:10 a.m. Downstairs. Contact Abby McGillivray, email: intergenerational-choir. Brown Bag Picnic. 12:30-3 p.m. West Goshen Community Park. See p. 9. Meditation Group. 5 p.m., Sanctuary. Contact Harriet Singer or Deanna Gabe, email: meditation.
May 16	Mon	Women's Circle. 7-9 p.m. Youth Group Room. Contact Debby Kern, email: women's-circle Men's Study Group. 7:30-9 p.m. Office. See p. 8.
May 19	Thu	Last Choir Rehearsal till the fall. Contact Helen Meacham, email: choir
May 20-22	Fri-Sun	Women's Retreat Weekend. Off-site. Contact Rev. Mero, email: minister
May 21	Sat	Plant our Food Bank Garden. 9 am - noon. See p. 8. Youth Group Battle of the Bands. 7-9 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 6.
May 24	Tue	Fellowship Council. 7-9 p.m. Office. Contact Mark Steel, email: program
May 25	Wed	Parent Support Group. 7 p.m. Office. Contact Sharon Meyer-Conroy, email: parent-support
May 26	Thu	Religious Services Committee. 7:30 p.m. Office. Contact Gerry Giess or Diane Minka, email: Office.
May 28	Sat	Folk Singing. 8 p.m. at the home of Steve and Linda Sander. See p. 9.
May 29	Sun	Membership Committee. 12:15 p.m. Office. Contact Barbara Long, email: membership Square Dance. 7:30-9 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 9.
May 30	Mon	Memorial Day. Office Closed.

Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

Spirit Singers	Practices 7:30-9 p.m. 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
Youth Group	Most Sundays, 10:45-noon. Youth Group Room. Email: youth-group. See p. 6.