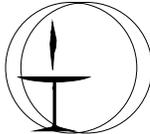


UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP OF WEST CHESTER
501 S HIGH ST
WEST CHESTER PA 19382

 **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

July 2011

July 3

HOPE AND THE FUTURE

UFWC Folk Singing Group

During this weekend of celebrating our past, join us in singing a variety of songs that consider the future and our hopes and dreams for a better tomorrow. Lyrics will be provided.

July 10

THE END OF THE WORD AS WE KNOW IT?

UFWC Members

This year marks the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible, which, with the writings of Shakespeare, was the most important contributor to the development of the English language. We'll look at the English Bible as a source of language, literature, faith, and culture. And why are there so many different Bibles anyway? We'll hear four members discuss their views about the Bible and what it means for liberal religion today — or not. Members are invited to bring a Bible from home and share what the Bible meant in their family and their spiritual development.

July 17

KEY TO HAPPINESS

Small Group Discussion

This is an introduction to the lecture series "The Necessity of Virtue" presented by Galen Guengerich at 2010 GA. He presented a study of seven virtues that help answer the question: "What is your ethical basis for deciding what to do and how to live?" Snippets of the introductory lecture will be shown followed by small group discussion. The full eight-lecture series will be shown and discussed in August and September on Wednesday evenings — Deborah led a similar discussion early this year — it was so good, we decided to do it again (lay-led this time).

July 24

SACRED SPACES

Karen Wertz

This service will explore how people discover and create sacred places on the Earth. How do we experience the divine or wholeness in our environments? Why do we attach sacred meanings to natural sites and manmade sites? What factors cause religions to define specific places as sacred? How do we as individuals find the sacred in the world in our own lives?

July 31

WE CAN (AND SHOULD) TALK ABOUT SUICIDE

Robin Garrett

Many members and friends of our congregation have been affected by suicide. Grounded in her personal experience and those of others in the congregation, Robin will explore questions about what suicide says about us as humans that we can and sometimes do take our own lives. She will also explore the challenges of the spirit for those who are survivors of a loved one's suicide. Please see additional information on this service on page 7.

Services and Babysitting at 10 AM.

THE SONG OF DEBORAH

We have come to the end of our Fellowship year. It has been another one filled with sharing, laughter, tears and everything in between. The details have already been written down at length in the annual report. As I look back upon the last twelve months, I've seen new faces among us and have not seen some faces which we miss. I've seen relationships deepening, new conversations happening, and life entering and leaving the community. It has been full in many ways.

The leadership has already begun conversations about what the shape of next year will look like. I've already begun conversations with our new president, Mary Yeager, and am looking forward to the work we will be doing together. We have some big challenges – filling the budget gap, initiating conversations about how we might find other sources of income, looking anew at the subjects of identity and growth, and a project we hope will be a great community builder while taking care of the various Sunday morning tasks that are part of what we do. The Board and team and committee leaders will be meeting in August to put flesh to these plans.

I think it will be a fun and constructive year ahead.

We will return to our regular schedule on Sunday, September 11. As it will be the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attack, I have been working with local clergy to begin plans for a community service to be held that evening. More information will be coming in the *September Fellowtarian*.

In March I spent one Sunday talking about being “inspired and energized,” about the variety of places and situations that breathe life into us (literally, in-spire). As we begin the summer, I hope many of us will take the time to find that kind of inspiration that takes us to a higher level of awareness. There will be precious moments to treasure and opportunities to recharge. At least I know it

I wish for all of you opportunities that inspire you, take you out of yourself and help you to recharge.

will be the case for me. I am looking forward to taking time to be and not always to be doing. I sincerely hope that you will be doing so as well. I will return to the pulpit, as has become my habit over the past four years, in late August with a sermon on Summer Gleanings – those things that have touched me or taken me to a place I have not been either spiritually, intellectually or emotionally. I wish for all of you opportunities that inspire you, take you out of yourself and help you to recharge. Make music, create art, sit in a field of flowers, go riding or walking, and reach out and do something for someone else. I want to hear about your summer gleanings as well when we regather.

I wish you all a summer of joy, of good health, of safe travels, of much love and friendship. Stay cool and safe and return refreshed.

– Deborah

2011-2012 CALENDAR EVENTS

To all Committee Chairs: The office (Barbara Robinson) is starting to put meetings and events on the upcoming Extended and Building Use Calendar for the 2011-12 Fellowship year. When you know what date or day of the month you would like your meetings or events to be held, please let Barbara know at email: office. This is a first come, first reserve system.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Throughout the summer the office will be updating the 2011-12 Directory and the “Whom Do You Contact?” list to be published and distributed by the fall. If you have changes to your personal information in the Directory or you will be the chair for any committee, please contact us (email: office) with your changes.

MINISTER'S SUMMER SCHEDULE

Deborah will be around and available for emergencies June 28-July 14, will be on vacation from July 15-August 12, and will resume office hours and meetings as of August 15. The Pastoral Care team will be available through the summer if needed, and there will be a minister available for emergencies during Deborah's vacation.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Fellowship Friends.

While many of you are thinking of summer plans like the beach and vacation, I have the Fellowship on my mind. As I prepare to take on the role of the president of the Fellowship's Board of Trustees, it is important for me to look back and see what has been accomplished and what is in process.

Following our Policy Governance Plan, the Board has taken the role of defining goals to fulfill the Fellowship's mission (see below) and empowered the Fellowship Council to take steps to meet those goals. Neighborhood meetings and the Embracing Diversity Committee have begun. A new website for the Fellowship is in the works as is a formalization of our communication process. For these and many other projects, I want to thank Diane for her work as president. Her persistence and focus have helped us integrate some necessary changes in governance and set in motion our Name Quest and new Long Range Plan.

Looking ahead, the budget discussions at our annual meeting made it clear that we need to reexamine how we support our Fellowship activities as well as what we fund. We need to find a way to bridge this year's budget deficit and take steps to avoid this problem in the future. (We will update you in September as to how we have narrowed the budget gap for the coming fiscal year.)

At the annual meeting, we also talked a lot about growth, which is something we haven't done as a congregation in a while. Many felt that our past efforts at growth were ineffective, but you should know that while the congregation's conversations

were focused on growth (2004-2008), our membership increased by 62 members, a significant gain worth celebrating. We need to talk again about what "growth" means. It is easy to say grow, but successful growth follows from outreach, publicity, quality content, a welcoming community, and making spiritual as well as physical "space" for our visitors and potential members as well as many other considerations.

Our vote to continue with the name change process necessitates a discussion of our identity. I am confident that by revisiting our Mission and Vision statements and by discussing a "Growth Initiative", we can tackle the challenge of choosing a name for our community.

Something new on our horizon is hospitality teams. These "teams" are a new way that congregational tasks such as greeter, usher, coffee hour host, and lay leader are organized. Other congregations have had great results organizing in these teams. Look for more information on this in the fall as we get these groups started.

As for me, I have been a member or friend of the Fellowship since the mid-90's. My children, now grown, have been through the Religious Education Program and Youth Group. I served on both the Double Services and the Bridging Committee as part of the Growth Initiative in

2005-6. I have taught Religious Education classes and am a perennial member of the Fun & Fellowship Committee. Last month, I attended the "Passing the Torch" Workshop offered by the CERG (Central East Regional Group of the UUA) which offered resources for building a leadership development plan. Thank you for all your kind words and encouragement. I am energized by your enthusiasm and ideas – keep them coming.

To start our new year together, Fellowship Council and Board members are invited to a Leadership Retreat August 19-20. If you have not received an invitation and wish to attend contact Deborah or me (email: president). We will be discussing the things I have mentioned and planning a process for our Name Quest; you can see we have plenty to talk about.

I welcome your input because your involvement is vital. Each of you brings a unique perspective to our congregation, and that diversity makes our Fellowship a more vibrant and enlightened community. I thank each of you for your contributions of time, energy, and finances to the Fellowship, and I look forward to working with you as Board President over the next two years.

– Mary Yeager



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REmarks – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

The classrooms downstairs are cleaned up and the chairs are overturned on top of the tables. RE classes are all over for 2010-11, but that doesn't mean we won't see each other until September. There are some great opportunities for us to get together during the summer.

First, we have scheduled the dates for our Ice Cream Socials. The RE Committee plans these with families in mind, but anyone who loves ice cream – or who just loves getting together with Fellowship friends – is invited to attend. I'll be posting reminders in Connections, but put the dates on your calendar now. If you contact me (email: DRE) to let me know you're planning on coming, I'll send out a direct reminder and will also email if the weather looks iffy but inconclusive on the evenings of the events. For the dates and times, please see the box on this page.

Second, we have an opportunity to help the Chester County Food Bank (CCFB) help low-income people who have difficulty meeting their food needs. Now that school is out, over 10,000 children who had been getting subsidized lunches at school are eating at home, putting a burden on these families. To help, the CCFB has started a "PB&J Crazy Food Drive." We can donate jars of PB and jelly and loaves of bread. We can also make PB&J sandwiches and deliver them to the CCFB.

Making sandwiches sounds like a great excuse to get together. A few details: it would have to be done on a weekday, since the Food Bank is only open M-F, with drop-offs made during their business hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Morning delivery for use the same day would be preferable.

Since the Fellowship building is not air conditioned, on hot days perhaps we could meet at individual houses. We'd all bring ingredients (and zip-lock bags) and have fun talking and hanging out together while we build the sandwiches. Then maybe whatever kids are there can share a snack and have some play / social time together. It would also be nice to share the responsibility of delivering the sandwiches to the Downingtown location at 1208 Horseshoe Pike.

If you're interested, please let me know. With enough participation, this could be more than a one-time event, i.e., different people could volunteer for different weeks. Also let me know if you'd like to host one or more of the gatherings.

Another opportunity to get together: I've been hankering to make a trip to the Joseph Priestley House in Northumberland, PA. A Google Maps search tells me it's only an hour and a half from the Fellowship, which makes it a reasonable day trip.

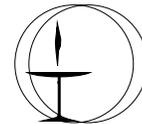
As the website says, "Joseph Priestley House is an historic site that preserves and interprets the contributions and significance to American history of Joseph Priestley, noted English theologian, educator, natural philosopher and political theorist. As a

National Historic Landmark and National Historic Chemical Landmark, the site features Priestley's manor house with its laboratory wing situated along the North Branch of the Susquehanna River at Northumberland, Pennsylvania - the small town Priestley called home from 1794-1804.

We could visit just the house (download the brochure at <http://bit.ly/lzrxel>) or go on a "Priestley Pilgrimage" that includes the Priestley Chapel, built by his descendants, and the Riverview Cemetery where Priestley is buried. (brochure at <http://bit.ly/jWOi8h>) For general information, visit the website: www.josephpriestleyhouse.org.

– Pam Baxter
Director of Religious Education

Interested in a summer day trip to see Joseph Priestley's house in Northumberland, Pennsylvania? See REmarks on this page.



Join us for
Ice Cream Under the Stars

Everyone is welcome!



Tuesday, July 12 at 7 p.m.
Maggie Moo
Main Street at Exton
(Rain Date: July 26)

August Date & Time TBA
Milky Way Farm in Lionville
Rte. 113 a bit north of Rte. 100
(Rain Date: August 22)

Questions? Contact Pam Baxter at email: DRE

**BOARD OF
TRUSTEES:
REPORT FROM THE
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
AND DISCUSSION OF
BUDGET AND FINANCE**

The Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, May 31, 2011. Barbara Long represented the Membership Committee in reporting the committee's accomplishments to the Board. Important work they have done this year includes expansion of the committee, revision of the committee's mission statement, and work towards re-designing new member materials. The Membership Committee organized the greeters and ushers, held newcomer orientation sessions, and sponsored our very successful new member dinner. Following Barbara's presentation, a number of ideas about the role of the Membership Committee in the growth of the Fellowship were discussed. The Board expressed appreciation to Barbara for taking the leadership role on the Membership Committee.

Budget and finance were the focus of the largest part of the board meeting. After hearing from Mike Miller, Executive Treasurer, that the projected income will not meet the planned budget, the board discussed a variety of solutions. The Board ultimately decided to recommend the adoption of a deficit budget with specific plans to fill the budget gap, and to make further budget cuts if efforts to close the gap are unsuccessful by a specified date in the early fall. Plans were made to share these recommendations with UFWC members at the special budget meeting on June 1 and again at the Congregational Meeting on June 5.

FINANCIALLY YOURS

This is a column of thanks, and we have a lot of thanking to do to all those UFWC members and friends who have done the hard and sometimes invisible and unrewarding work of keeping our Fellowship running and paying the bills that we all know must be paid. So let's start with a big thank you to all members and friends who stepped up and made a pledge for our 2011-2012 budget drive, 134 individuals and families who heard the call and responded and an especially big thank you to the 60 individuals and families who increased their pledge to make our campaign one of the most successful in the last three years.

Thanks for this go in particular to the people who served with me on our Stewardship Committee including Gerry Giess, Jim MacFadyen, Dirk Troltenier, Sandy Retzlaff, and Ralph Mero. The breakfast meetings at the West Chester Diner were incentive enough for this effort, and the marvelous discussion that went with them was a bonus. Also thanks to our Visiting Stewards. Though too numerous to mention in a short column, they provided the backbone for our effort and made hard work light. Thank you too, to our Finance Committee and Treasurers, Tom Townsend (Income) and Janine Galen (Expense) and Cyndy Bullaughey (System Administrator). The hours they put in are unimaginable.

While our annual budget drive was successful, we fell short of our goal and had to pass a deficit budget. That means that we have some ground to make up in our funding for the coming year. But I am confident that we will pull together to close our budget gap. How? By paying the pledges we made for the year now coming to an end and doing the same for the coming year. Thank you to those of you who have completed your commitment. For those of you who have not yet completed yours, won't you please join your UFWC friends and neighbors in doing so? There is still time, and you can pay your pledge retroactively. If you have some doubt or concern about the amount of your pledge or the balance outstanding, please contact me or Tom Townsend.

Finally, thank you to our staff, Rev. Mero, Pam, Barbara, Helen and Sarah. They served us well and faithfully, and budget time is a trying time for them. As we relax into our summer recess, Deb, Pam and Barbara will be working and planning for the year to come. Be reminded of their efforts, and thank them silently or in person.

– Mike Miller



This was the final meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Fellowship year. The Board encourages UFWC members and friends to share comments and concerns with Board members informally until regular meetings

resume in the fall. Members of the 2010-11 Board included Diane Cohle, president; Fred Frayer; Curt Hoganson; Dirk Troltenier; Helena Graham; Rick Marts, vice-president; and Sandra Schaal, secretary.

STONES IN THE SAME WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

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

FOR WANT OF A NAIL

Help make a real difference in our community and in the lives of a few individuals in need who are committed to starting their families off on a solid footing. Habitat for Humanity does not just build houses; it builds communities by giving people a sense of true ownership, responsibility and security, perhaps for the first time in their lives. It feels great to work alongside others to build affordable housing for people right here in Chester County who might otherwise never be able to get out from under the endless cycle of poverty.

Future homeowners must contribute “sweat equity” as well as work to pay off a reasonable mortgage, but in the end they have a home of their own, and so much more. Be a part of making the dream a reality.

We need volunteers to join us for the only UFWC work day of the summer on Saturday, July 9. Construction is from 8:30 to 3:30 in Coatesville, and we would like as many people from the Fellowship as possible for our team. Invite family or friends to join you, and make a day of it. Everyone can help. Have construction skills? Great! If not, want to learn some? (Must be over 16 to work on the construction site.) Don't want to swing a hammer? Then maybe you could provide lunch for other volunteers, carry stuff or contribute in some other way. Thank you.

Please contact Mike Stevens at email: habitat to get on the list for more details.

ANIMAL MINISTRY SURVEY RESULTS

At the service on June 5, Fellowship members participated in a written survey concerning animal-welfare issues of interest to our newly-formed Animal Ministry group. We will use the results to plan future projects and events. Look at the results, and take a few moments to answer the questions for yourself, if you did not participate in the survey:

- How would you rate the humane treatment of farm animals?
 - Very important 12
 - Important 18
 - Secondary to human needs 7
 - Not a moral issue 0
- How would you rate the humane treatment of pets?
 - Most important 15 Minor importance 2
 - Important 19 Not a moral issue 0
- How important do you consider the reduction of meat-eating both personally and on a worldwide environmental and economical level?
 - Most important 7 Minor importance 6
 - Important 20 Not important 2
- Are you interested in films/discussions or printed materials and emails on any of the following?
 - Food production practices 17
 - Veganism/Vegetarianism 9
 - Legislation updates on animal abuse issues 9
 - Pet care related topics 3
 - None 11
- Are you monitoring your diet and food choices because of ethical concerns?
 - Yes 24 No 13
- How would you classify your eating habits?
 - No meat or dairy (vegan) 1
 - Vegetarian 3
 - Regular meat and fish 28
 - Fish, no meat 2
 - Meat, no fish 1

SHARE-THE-PLATE GENEROSITY

We are pleased to announce that the share-the-plate recipient on July 17 (third Sunday of the month) is **Home of the Sparrow**. Home of the Sparrow serves homeless, disadvantaged, and abused women and children, helping them move from homelessness to self-sufficiency. They provide intensive services including safe, stable housing, case management, life skills training, education and outreach programs to help women and their children achieve independence.

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION PROJECT

THIS MONTH'S SUGGESTED ITEMS: JUICES – FAMILY SIZE

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



SHARING OF IDEAS AND EXPERIENCES FOR THE SERVICE ON SUICIDE REQUEST

Robin Garrett invites members and friends of the congregation to share material and personal perspectives with her to include as she develops the July 31 service on suicide – for example, descriptions of your experiences, your challenges, insights, resources or favorite quotations. Robin's contact information is in the directory.

Robin plans to include in the service information about resources such as National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), which is a great resource for folks themselves who are dealing with mental illness and for their loved ones as well, and Survivors of Suicide, another great support network.

WELCOME TO NEIL CHABAN OUR NEW HYMNIST

Please join us in welcoming our newest employee, Neil Chaban, our new pianist/hymnist. He has been accompanying us for the past month and will remain throughout the summer. He is currently a student at West Chester University studying music on the piano and organ. He has agreed to be with us throughout his studies at West Chester University for the next three years.



He has studied in the field of sacred/church music for much of his life across a wide range of denominations and styles, and as he has shown, is extremely flexible when it comes to different styles of music, accompanying, and hymn playing. He has worked with and directed choirs at his congregation. Much of his background comes in playing off lead sheets and chords; however he is also classically trained and strongly suited in both areas. His love for music lies in making and sharing it with others.

UFWC ONLINE FLEA MARKET

Tom Buglio is offering a new year-long UFWC fundraiser based upon the principals of our once-per-year flea market. Find something of value you no longer need, reduce your clutter, and offer it to the Fellowship to sell online and promote reusing. Donations are tax deductible donations to UFWC. This will be a good way to raise funds from outside of the Fellowship. Here is what Tom asks of you:

1. Donate items that are still in usable condition that in your mind will bring at least \$10 or more.
2. If possible send a digital picture to Tom with your best description of it. If it is electronics, get me a model number and specs.
3. Send your picture and information to Tom at email: online-flea-market.
4. If the item is small, bring it to the Fellowship and meet Tom to take it off your hands.
5. Each week in *Connections*, there will be a list of what is available with pricing. Fellowship Members get a 10% discount on any item on the list.

No item too big or too small, so long as it works and is sellable. The UFWC online Flea Market is open for business.

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

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Diane Cohle, President email: president

Pam Baxter, Dir. of Religious Ed email: dre

Steve and Linda Sander, Editors email: fellowtarian

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

All email addresses @ufwc.org unless otherwise noted.

Jul 3	Sun	First Sunday Food Collection. Lobby. See p. 7.
Jul 4	Mon	Independence Day. Office closed.
Jul 9	Sat	Habitat for Humanity UFWC Work Day. 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. in Coatesville. See p. 6.
Jul 10	Sun	Pool Party and Music Jam. Noon-4 p.m. at Chic Bach's home. See below. 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
Jul 12	Tue	Ice Cream Under the Stars. 7 p.m. at Maggie Moo, in Exton. See p. 4.
Jul 14	Thu	Social Justice Committee. 7:15-9 p.m. Office. Contact Ed Cohle, email: social-justice
Jul 17	Sun	Share the Plate Sunday. Benefits Home of the Sparrow. See p. 6.
Jul 18	Mon	Women's Circle. 7-9 p.m. Youth Group Room. Contact Debby Kern, email: womens-circle

POOL PARTY AND MUSIC JAM

**SUNDAY, JULY 10 NOON - 4
629 NORWAY RD, CHADDS FORD**

Chic Bach and the Fun & Fellowship committee invite the UFWC community to an outdoor pool party at Chic's home in Chadds Ford on July 10 in the afternoon. You can come directly after services if you wish. There will be swimming, volleyball, an outdoor music jam, and gas grills.

Bring your bathing suit, towel, lawn chair, musical instrument, a beverage, something to grill (if you wish), some food to share, and your own picnic-ware (plates/forks/cups). Ice and refrigeration will be provided. There are a few shade trees and there is a tent for the musicians.



This will be one of our main congregation-wide social events for the summer. It is a great opportunity for all ages to make connections and have fun. We hope to see several families there. (Be aware that there will be no life guard.) Watch for a change-of-plans announcement if it rains. Directions will be available in a link from *Connections*. For more information contact Chic or Nancy Artus (email: pool-party).

Hope to see you there!

EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

Currently we are completing our reading and film selections as well as our Summer Reading List. Both will be available on the Fellowship website. Our next meeting will be September 11. We will continue to meet upstairs in the office on second Sundays, September through May, at our usual time 7-8:30 p.m. For more information or to be added to our email list please contact us at email: diversity-book-group, or call either Ruth MacFadyen or Shelly Case. All are Welcome.