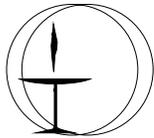


UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP OF WEST CHESTER
501 S HIGH ST
WEST CHESTER PA 19382



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 August 2011

August 7

**REV. PETER J. GOMES:
A VOICE OF LIBERAL RELIGION**

Rob Sartain

A Baptist minister who preaches liberal religious thought? It could happen. Come hear the inspiring story of Reverend Peter J. Gomes and find out what Unitarian Universalists can draw from his preaching.

August 14

AFRICAN DANCE

Janet Peck

Our annual treat to ourselves, and one of our favorite intergenerational services. Remember, "If you can walk, you can dance." Wear loose comfortable clothing and bring a smile. All ages are encouraged to come.

August 21

TO BE ANNOUNCED

TBA

August 28

SUMMER GLEANINGS

Rev. Deborah Mero

In what is becoming the traditional end of summer entry, our minister will bring us what she has learned over her time away from the pulpit. This summer Deborah is traveling both close to home and a bit farther away than usual looking for inspiration and renewal in another culture.

Services and Babysitting at 10 AM.

REMARKS

This is shaping up to be a month of travel for me. It includes time in Maine with my brother and sisters and, hopefully, my son. Our traditional week in East Blue Hill includes lazy mornings on the porch, reading and writing, chamber music, swimming, and hiking the incredible trails of Acadia National Park.

For my family, Maine is our touchstone. As children, in a series of fortunate summers, we had the opportunity to vacation there; enough so that today, no matter how far away we might be geographically or how much time lapses between visits, the place seems part of us. It also holds the spirit of our parents, no longer living, who gave us our first Maine experiences. To be able to return to this place, year after year, and to see the same landscape virtually unchanged, touches something deep in us. It is, in its way, holy ground.

Also on my travel list this August is Northumberland, PA. Is it a yearning for some kind of UU touchstone that prompted me to suggest a UFWC trip to the home of Unitarian Joseph Priestley, our District's namesake? Christians,

Jews and Muslims have their sacred places in the Holy Land. Buddhists visit sacred shrines. Where do UUs go to connect with our

roots? Can I find the spirit of Unitarian Universalism at Joseph Priestley's museum home and laboratory? I don't expect to, but you never know. I recall feeling a deep connection to our Unitarian heritage while standing alone in the Arlington Street Church in Boston eight years ago. Something about being in that space changed something in me.

As I write this, I am also recalling my experience at this year's General Assembly just a month ago. Perhaps the need for a

touchstone experience is part of what draws thousands of people to this event every year. All I know is that when 4,000 or more of us join voices in singing "Spirit of Life," it

touches something deep within me. For those five days of GA, we stand on holy ground of our own creating.

It is no less holy ground that we tread when we walk into our Fellowship building. And it matters that we come together; to be in each other's presence not only at Sunday morning services and in religious education classes, but also at potlucks, workshops, committee meetings, social action projects and work parties. As long as UUs continue to come together to do the work of our faith, there will always be holy ground for us.

I hope you are enjoying your summer. And if you should unexpectedly find yourself on holy ground, I would be honored if you would share your experience with me.

Blessings,

– Pam Baxter
Director of Religious Education

FYI: Out of the 19 UUA Districts in the United States, only three are named for famous Unitarians or Universalists: the Ballou-Channing and Clara Barton Districts in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, and our own Joseph Priestley District.

DON'T WAIT! RE-REGISTER FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOW.

For safety and other reasons, it's important for us to update our RE registrations each year. You don't have to wait until September. Get a head start by going to our website (www.ufwc.org), clicking on Religious Education, and then accessing the on-line registration form. Thank you.

Rev. Mero is on vacation this month. There is no Minister's column.

JOIN US FOR ICE CREAM UNDER THE STARS

Tuesday, August 9 at 7 p.m.

**Milky Way Farm
Rte. 113 just north of Rte. 100
in Lionville**

**Everyone is welcome!
Rain Date Tuesday, August 23
Questions: email: DRE**



FROM THE PRESIDENT

There is exciting news from the choir. They have selected a new choir director for the coming year. Miriam Davidson, a native of Philadelphia, has worked at other UU congregations in the country, most recently as music director at the Greenville UU Fellowship in South Carolina. Those of you who go to SUUSI, might remember her as the Nightlife Director for the past several years.

Her resume is impressive, and we are fortunate to have her join our staff. I hope you will all make an effort to hear the choir's first performance with Miriam in September. As excited as we may be about our new choir direc-

tor, we are losing a very talented and valuable employee, as Helen Meacham leaves the post to pursue her teaching responsibilities. The choir has never sounded better than under Helen's leadership. Thank you, Helen, for your caring spirit and dedicated service.

As you can see in the Board report below, the predicted budget gap has been reduced to \$7,200 through payment of outstanding pledges and a larger carryover from last year's budget than expected. There are still some outstanding pledges so those of you who are behind in

your pledges could really help us out by getting caught up on your contributions.

There are two ways to balance the budget. The first is cutting expenses. The majority of the Fellowship's expenses are designated for the salaries of our Minister, Religious Education Director, and office administrator. We would prefer to not change our

contractual agreements with our employees. That leaves our discretionary expenses to consider.

Our committees' expenses are a relatively small part of our budget, and they are a vital part of what draws us to the Fellowship. The importance of the com-

mittees' work makes is difficult to cut costs here and carry our message to the wider community. The second way to balance the budget is to increase our income. This can be done through increased pledging or other forms of fundraising. Though the board is discussing what to do, it is really up to you which direction we take.

Each of us needs to ask ourselves what are the important things for our community and ourselves that the Fellowship provides and how can we support those things. There are many decisions before us. Help us choose

...what are the important things for our community and ourselves that the Fellowship provides and how can we support those things?

the right course. We need your ideas and help in bringing them about. Discuss your ideas with whichever Fellowship committee you serve on or with an executive team or Board member.

We need to find short term and long term solutions to our persistent budget shortage, because eight months from now we might be in the same position looking at next year's budget. That said, we have a great community here at the Fellowship. We value what each of us contributes financially and personally through our involvement in Fellowship activities. I am confident that we will find our way through this challenge. This is an opportunity to make our Fellowship home better known in the wider community through creative fund-raising. In August at the leadership retreat our committee leaders and Board will make plans for the Name discussion process as well as for balancing our budget. It is not too late to make plans to join us on August 19 and 20 at Mariawald Retreat Center in Reading. Contact me at email:president if you wish to attend the retreat or have ideas to help us balance our budget.

– Mary Yeager

FOLK SINGING

The next folk singing get-together is Saturday, August 27, 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.



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

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

Web: www.ufwc.org

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Diane Cohle, President email: president

Pam Baxter, Dir. of Religious Ed email: dre

Steve and Linda Sander, Editors email: fellowtarian

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: APPROVES NEW MUSIC TEAM AND TACKLES BUDGET ISSUES

The Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, July 12, 2011. Although the Board of Trustees does not typically meet during the summer months, a number of pressing issues brought the Board together this month.

Marie Steele, chair of the Music Committee, presented the committee's recommended candidates for choir director and hymnist. Marie described the process through which the Music Committee reviewed and selected the candidates. The Board voted to approve the committee's recommendation of Miriam Davidson to be the new choir director and Neil Chaban to be the Fellowship's hymnist.

The second issue under discussion by the Board was the budget deficit. Although the funding gap has been reduced substantially through the payment of past-due pledges and reduced spending at the end of our fiscal year, the Board is continuing with contingency planning. If the remaining gap of \$7,200 has not been filled by October 31, the Board agreed to be prepared with alternative plans for meeting the budget. Tuesday's meeting was essentially a brain-storming session with a wide variety of ideas for additional fund-raising and possible additional budget cuts discussed.

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 next Board meeting is Tuesday, July 26, 2011 in the office at 7 p.m. Members of the Board include Mary Yeager, president; Fred Frayer; Curt Hoganson; Dirk Troltenier; Helena Graham; Rick Marts; and Sandra Schaal, secretary.

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 (or 5% of the purchase).



Giant, Acme, Shop Rite and Superfresh participate and give us a 5% 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. Contact Rob Sartain, email: grocery-program

GREETERS AND USHERS SUMMER PARTY

To celebrate their commitment to making UFWC an inviting place for visitors as well as for members and friends, all greeters and ushers are invited to David and Barbara Long's condo, Sunday, August 28, at 3 p.m. for some sangria and light refreshments. There are 42 of you, so letting the Longs know if you can come will allow them to work out the parking situation.

The Longs live at 503 Westtown Circle on in a 35-unit complex tucked in the woods, 3/4 mile off Route 3, in West Goshen Township. I will send easy directions, once I hear from you. To RSVP and receive directions, contact Barbara Long at email: membership by August 20.

Do bring your significant other. New joiners are always welcome.

GAME NIGHT

Our next game night will be on August 5 at 6:30 p.m. We will celebrate summer with ice cream sundaes. Ice cream and toppings will be provided. Bring a main dish or a side dish to share as well as a beverage and games to play. What a great way to end a hot, busy week! Please don't be shy about coming; everyone is welcome. You are encouraged to bring a friend. We play a variety of games – board games, card games – new ones and old favorites too. So bring what you want to play and relax – it's easy.

It would helpful (but not necessary) to give us a heads up if you are coming, so that we know how much ice cream (*et. al.*) to bring. Contact Mary Yeager at email: game-night if you are coming or if you have any questions.

STONES IN THE SAME WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

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

GLEANING

Chester County Food Bank says that, “no one should go hungry.” In the past, we’ve helped. Look at their web site (www.chestercountyfoodbank.org) and find your name. Also, look for the name of our Fellowship; speaking of which, we have the most volunteers per size of any organization in West Chester, including churches. That’s why we get called first and get to select the dates we want to work.

This year we have notified them that we want to glean on two days: Wednesday, August 1, and Monday, August 29. On both dates we will pick corn and tomatoes (and whatever else is ripe) at Pete’s Produce on route 926 near Westtown School. Let’s have a good turnout and show the Food Bank that UFWC really cares.

Specifically, the picking takes place from 8:30 a.m. until about 10 a.m. (to beat the heat) at the back-end of Pete’s. Turn north off route 926 onto Westtown Rd. (at the traffic light just west of Pete’s stand), go 1/4 mile, and turn right (east) at the sign. Then park, meet your friends, and pick.

Contact Tom Townsend (email: gleaning) if you have questions.



FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION PROJECT

This month’s Suggested Items: Cereal

Our monthly food collection is on **Sunday, August 7**. 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.

SHARE-THE-PLATE GENEROSITY

We are pleased to announce the share-the-plate recipient on August 21 (third Sunday of the month) is once again 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.

EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP BOOK LIST FOR 2011-2012

We will continue to meet on the second Sunday from 7-8:30 p.m. in the upstairs office at the Fellowship. Our first meeting will be September 11. Please contact us at email: diversity-book-group or call Shelly Case or Ruth MacFadyen. All are Welcome.

- Sep 11 *Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand* by Helen Simonson
- Oct 9 *Sarah’s Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay
- Nov 13 *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout
- Dec 11 *The Hundred Secret Senses* by Amy Tan
- Jan 8 *The Story of a Beautiful Girl* by Rachel Simon
- Feb 12 *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot
- Mar 11 *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese
- Apr 8 *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother* by Any Chua
- May 13 *The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse* by Louise Erdich

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

All email addresses @ufwc.org unless otherwise noted.

Aug 3	Wed	<p>Religious Education Committee. 7 p.m. Fireplace Rm. Contact Heidi Frayer, email: RE</p> <p>The Necessity of Virtue - Adult RE Begins. Eight-week series, 7:30 p.m. Youth Group Rm. Contact Gerry Giess, email: adult-re</p>
Aug 5	Fri	Potluck and Game Night. 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 4.
Aug 6	Sat	Campfire & Folk Singing. 5:30 p.m. Offsite. See below.
Aug 7	Sun	First Sunday Food Collection. Lobby. See p. 5.
Aug 9	Tue	Ice Cream under the Stars. Milky Way Farm. See p. 2.
Aug 11	Thu	Social Justice Committee. 7:15-9 p.m. Office. Contact Ed Cohle, email: social-justice
Aug 13-14	Sat-Sun	District Youth Steering Committee Overnight. Contact email: youth-group
Aug 14	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
Aug 15	Mon	Women's Circle. 7-9 p.m. Youth Group Room. Contact Debby Kern, email: womens-circle
Aug 17	Wed	Gleaning. 8:30 to ~10 a.m. Pete's Produce. See p. 5.
Aug 19-20	Fri-Sat	Leadership Retreat. Offsite. See "From the President" p. 3.
Aug 21	Sun	<p>Share the Plate Sunday. Benefits Home of the Sparrow. See p. 5.</p> <p>Membership Committee. 11:30 a.m. Office. Contact Barbara Long, email: membership</p>
Aug 27	Sat	Folk Singing. 8 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. See p. 3.
Aug 28	Sun	Greeters and Ushers Summer Party. 3 p.m. Offsite. See p. 4.
Aug 29	Mon	Gleaning. 8:30 to ~10 a.m. Pete's Produce. See p. 5.
		<p>The Necessity of Virtue - Adult RE Eight-week series Wednesdays, August 3, 10, 17, 24, September 7, 14, 21, 28 at 7:30 p.m. Youth Group Rm. Contact Gerry Giess, email: adult-re</p>

SINGING AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

Saturday, August 6, 5:30 p.m. and beyond
Sharon Sweitzer's farm (near Cochranville)
438 Gum Tree Rd, Coatesville



What to bring:

- a dish to share for a pot-luck supper
- your own drink
- a lawn chair or blanket
- Frisbees, balls, games
- guitar or other musical instrument

tables, plates, cups and utensils, out-house facilities, campfire wood.

After the potluck we can enjoy a campfire and singing together. Craig Talbot will be there with his guitar. Other musicians are welcome.

Dogs are allowed. We have

15 horses in the pastures now and will keep them in a separate field for the evening. There is pastureland, woods and a pond to explore.

Direct questions to Sharon Sweitzer at email: camping.

What will be provided: serving