

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](http://www.ufwc.org)

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**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.*

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## DECEMBER, 2111 SERVICES

**December 4**

**OUT OF SIGHT OUT OF MIND?**

**Rev. Deborah Mero**

December 1 marked World AIDS Day. When I was first entering ministry over 20 years ago, AIDS was all around us. Many of us lost friends and acquaintances to the disease. Now there is a drug "cocktail" that prolongs life and enhances life quality for those who are HIV+ and can afford it. But worldwide, AIDS continues to take a toll. Of all things, the Broadway musical "the Book of Mormon" reminds us that AIDS is still with us and worthy of our attention.

**Deck the Hall!** Please join us after the 11 a.m. service as we transform our sanctuary into its festive holiday beauty. Music, hot chocolate and goodies will be provided. Plan to stay for a while and help us dress up our space for the holidays.

**December 11**

**SNOW**

**Rev. Deborah Mero and Pam Baxter**

Children long for it, commuters dread it, and poets write about it. What is it about this crystalline form of water that can transform a landscape in just a few hours from something gray and barren, to something that calls us out to play in it, or speaks to the romantic in us? How can each and every snowflake be unique? Join us for an adventure into the fun and beauty of snow. This is an intergenerational service. Families are welcome to attend either service.

**December 11 at 6 p.m.**

**VESPERS – RE-IMAGINING THE HOLIDAY SEASON**

**Rev. Deborah Mero**

For those who are having a hard time with the holidays – dealing with loss, change, or ghosts of holidays past. Come to share or just be.

**December 18**

**IT'S A MYSTERY**

**Rev. Deborah Mero**

The mystery is what the Sunday service will be about. Your minister is leaving room here for promptings of the spirit. With so much in flux we shall see where the spirit leads.

**December 24, Christmas Eve**

**4:30 p.m.**

**WARM FUZZY JOY**

**Family Service**

A family service aimed at the very youngest in age or at heart. It was so much fun last year, we will again be blessing our stuffed animals. All (adults and children) are encouraged to bring your favorite stuffed animals, and if you don't have any, perhaps this is the time for a new Christmas Eve present. We will tell stories, sing Christmas songs and have a jolly time together.

**7:00 p.m.**

**A CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE**

**Rev. Deborah Mero**

Christmas Eve is a magical time. It sparkles with light and hope. Join us for the readings and carols of the season, stories old and new. Our choir, the Spirit Singers, is working on special music to brighten up our holidays along with, of course, a special story.

**December 25  
11 a.m. Only**

**A LITTLE CHRISTMAS MORNING GATHERING**

**Alan Pittenger and  
Gerry Giess**

Alan Pittenger and Gerry Giess will lead an informal service with some carols and readings (let us know if you have something to share) and an opportunity for attendees to share stories from holidays past.

Services and Babysitting at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Religious Education at 9 a.m. only.

## THE SONG OF DEBORAH

Moments of grace happen when we least expect them. Last week I drove to Berkeley Springs, West Virginia for the annual gathering of the Harper's Ferry Ministerial Study Group. It was my second time attending. Last year I car-pooled with several colleagues, and along the way we stopped for dinner. There was a cluster of restaurants and fast food joints in one shopping area in

Maryland. We, trying to be good, chose Panera. This year I was alone as my schedule was out of sync with everyone else's. I needed to stop to eat and managed to find the same exit and cluster of dining choices. For some reason, unknown to me, I wound up at Wendy's

– haven't been to one of those in recent memory. The food was so-so, not unexpectedly. As I was pondering last year's meal at Panera's (which was next door) I looked out the window and saw clouds of birds swirling and swarming, rising and diving, alighting on several trees and just as quickly soaring again into the skies. It was magical. It was scary (brought to mind Hitchcock's *The Birds*.) It was awesome. I don't think I've seen so many birds at once, ever.

The visual contrasts were startling. I was practically alone in a fast food box with glaring fluorescent light overhead looking out large window walls where the sun was setting majestically. Blues, reds, and violets were painted in the background and the birds were doing their amazingly

choreographed dance in front of it. Cars were driving around the expansive asphalt lot, people were doing their thing. To what degree anyone was watching the show other than me is totally unknown.

Had I been eating at Panera I would not have seen the avian ballet – the windows there are tinted with drawn shades. Had I been facing another direction I would not have noticed. So much of life is serendipity or just noticing what is put in front of us. I wished I had had with me the camera packed in my car but no photo or video could have done it justice. Instead I will have the memory of the soaring birds, the fluorescent lights, the

*The holiday season tends to focus us on details and lists and tasks. We often forget to look up, and we miss the moments of grace that are there if we just take time to notice.*

whole amazing scene in my mind's eye, in my memory. When all else seems crass and crazy, the birds gather and soar. When on the way from one thing to another there may appear a moment of grace, a window into a world of magic, a reminder that there is beauty and rhythm and a universe where things happen seemingly unrelated to anything else surrounding them.

There are times in all of our lives, when what is in front of us seems to be the only important thing in the world. The holiday season tends to focus us on details and lists and tasks. We often forget to look up, and we miss the moments of grace that are there if we just take time to notice. I, for one, have had "Occupy" on the brain lately as well as the horrible

scandal at Penn State. Both of these have rocked the conventional worldview of those involved or affected. They have far reaching implications and have touched countless people. In the midst of all of the pain – and hope – that are ever present with us, I am so grateful for those unexpected moments of grace. Whether I experience them in the birds in flight, the sound of our amazing choir, an exchange with one of our children, or during any random unexpected encounter, I am reminded that blessings abound.

May your holiday season be blessed with moments of grace, loving people, and JOY. Take time to notice.

– In faith, and gratitude,  
Deborah

## WOMEN'S RETREAT JANUARY 13-15, 2012

Registration is filling up fast for our third Women's Retreat weekend. In the last two years we have had wonderful groups of women from UFWC head off to Reading for a weekend of making spiritual and personal connections. It was a fabulous time. We laughed a lot and had some deep conversations as well.

The retreat will be held again at Mariawald Renewal Center which is about 50 minutes away from the Fellowship. We have room for 19 people max. Our list has 14 on it, but nothing is final until we have the registration forms and checks in hand. More information and the registration form can be found at <http://web.mac.com/revdeb/page19/page19.html> (click on "Retreat 103 Registration" on Deborah's web-page.) If you wish a paper or e-mailed copy ask Deborah (email: minister) or Bonita Kehler. We also will have funds available for those needing financial assistance. The registration deadline is December 10. Sign up now.

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

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is an exciting time to be at the Fellowship - many new faces and new members. I welcome you to our Fellowship family and look forward to seeing you at one of our holiday parties. (See the calendar for dates and locations.) The best way for you to get to know us is to jump in and get involved. It can be a big jump, like organizing a social justice activity, or a little jump such as helping decorate the Fellowship for the holidays. We want you to feel a part of our community; help us to get to know you by coming to the holiday parties and participating in our activities.

We are near another step in our name exploration process. In small groups, we have been discussing what our name should say about us and what kind of name we want. Take a look at the names that have been suggested. Which ones do you like and which do you dislike? Ask your friends and neighbors outside the Fellowship community what they think of our current name and some of the suggested names that you like. Remember, our name makes a statement to the community about who we are and who we want to be. Please see the Name/Identity article in this issue, and join us on December 17 when we finalize our plans for the vote. You wouldn't let someone else name your child; be a part of our naming process.

– Mary Yeager

## REmarks – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE THE SHARED MINISTRY OF RADICAL HOSPITALITY

Our 7th and 8th graders have been busy this fall learning about other faith traditions and taking part in local worship services. Part of their discussion after these visits is reflecting on what aspects of the faith and service are different from UUism and our Fellowship, and what parts are similar.

One of the differences the class noted about their visit to the Westtown Friends Meeting was the Quaker practice of “shared ministry,” rather than a minister leading the services. I think that’s something that we also share at our Fellowship, but not just because we have lay-led services during the summer and regularly throughout the year. Broaden the term “ministry,” and we all have roles to play.

One of the ministries that the RE Committee has been practicing is hospitality: making new families and children feel welcome. We do this by taking turns being the “RE Greeter” on Sunday mornings, giving a special welcome to visitors, and giving tours of the classroom areas and introducing children to their teachers if there’s time before the service starts.

This fall we’ve been thinking about the idea of Radical Hospitality and what that means in our religious education program. We decided that while it’s important to make newcomers feel welcome, we also want to make long-time members, newer members and recent returnees feel welcomed too. Just because someone has been attending for a long time doesn’t mean that they don’t want or need to feel special.

As part of that goal, we’ve expanded our greeting team to include the parents of the children in the Coming of Age class. Thanks to all of them for taking part! But greeting people isn’t something that only the designated people can do. Even if you’re not an “official” RE Greeter, the RE Committee encourages you to practice Radical Hospitality by reaching out to other families, whether you already know them or not.

On that note – we’ve had many new families visit us the past two months. If you haven’t already had the opportunity, please welcome Lauren Erion, her daughter Anneli and son Miles; Casey and Joel Lutz, their daughter Eva and son William; Josiah and Amy Woods and their son Logan; Joshua and Lindsey Sweet and their son Asher; and Steve and Peggy Calnek, and their daughter Rosina and son Ted. We are so happy to have them all with us!

– Pam Baxter, Director of Religious Education

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Radical Hospitality  
by reaching out  
to other families,  
whether you  
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them or not.*

## THE SEASON IS UPON US

Flu season has begun. Here are a few reminders for staying healthy and helping to keep germs from spreading:

- Stay home if you are truly sick.
- Keep children home if they are sick.
- Frequently wash your hands with soap.
- Cough / sneeze into your elbow rather than your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes and nose with your hands.
- Use hand sanitizer, available in the dispenser on the wall outside the sanctuary, and next to some of the sinks in our building.



Here's to healthy holidays for us all!

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES LEARNING FROM THE UUA'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, November 8, 2011. Eileen Kelly-Meyer, Dan Meyer, and Pam Baxter, who represented the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester at the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly (GA) last June, brought excitement and enthusiasm about their experiences at GA to the board—along with many great ideas about how we can move forward with our mission. Among the most compelling ideas shared were strategies for better implementing our mission with regard to multiculturalism and racial justice, addressing the needs of all generations, particularly young adults, and effectively positioning ourselves for growth.

Eileen, Dan, and Pam encourage all members to consider taking the opportunity to spend time with and be inspired by UUs, from all parts of the country by attending GA. Rev. Mero will bring information about the 2012 Justice GA in Phoenix to the congregation as plans for the event take shape.

The Board encourages UFWC members and friends to share comments and concerns with Board members, as well as to attend Board meetings if interested. Please check Connections for the December meeting date. 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 Mary Yeager, president; Fred Frayer; Curt Hoganson; Dirk Troltenier; Helena Graham; Rick Marts, vice president; and Sandra Schaal, secretary.

## PASTORAL CARE

Did you know that each month one of the members of our Pastoral Care Team is the "point person?" The point person follows up with those persons lighting candles on Sundays who may need a bit of extra support. That person also is the one to contact if you can't get hold of Deborah. For the month of December, Amy Spare is our point person. She can be reached at email: pastoral-care.

## A BIT OF HISTORY FROM THE NAME/IDENTITY TEAM

Our congregation voted last June to explore other names for our congregation. This had been the topic of discussion for many years. Some people felt that our name – Fellowship – did not accurately describe us. Fellowships were started as small congregations. We now have over 180 members – not so small. Others didn't like that we don't include Universalist in our name. Still others think we shouldn't have West Chester in the name because they feel that is a limiting description, and we may consider moving in the future.

We delayed making such a major decision while we went through some other monumental decisions such as developing a mission and vision statement and calling a new minister. Last year we voted to officially explore a name change. This doesn't mean that we will change the name. It just means that we will put conscious effort into discussions on our name.

We will have a chance to vote early in 2012 on whether to keep our name or to take the new name that we winnow out of all names that are suggested.

## FROM THE NAME/ IDENTITY TEAM

Join us for a holiday gathering at the Fellowship. On Saturday, December 17, we will host a holiday gathering and a discussion about our name and identity issues. This event will be held in three parts:

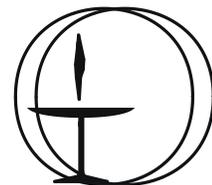
**Part 1. From 3 to 4 p.m.** This part is for those who have not attended a previous name gathering. There will be a discussion about the meaning of our name as it relates to our identity.

**Part 2. From 4 to 5:30 p.m.** This will be our Holiday Party (BYOB for cocktails) and hors d'oeuvres and is open to everyone. The team will provide light snacks and nonalcoholic refreshments as well as child-care upon request.

**Part 3. From 5:30 to 7 p.m.** Our discussion will focus on proposed names for our congregation. At this meeting we will add to and complete the list of suggested names. If you are unable to attend, you may send your suggestions to email: name.

A sign-up sheet for the event is available in the sanctuary or you may RSVP to email: name.

Following the event on December 17, look for information from the team with details about a final vote on a new name or to keep our current name. The final vote will take place on February 12. If you would like to vote in February, you must be a UFWC member as of January 10. See Rev. Deborah Mero or Barbara Long with questions regarding membership.



## FINANCIALLY YOURS

Our building is our most valuable physical asset, and we love the place. We heat it, light it up, protect it, and provide it with water and sewerage and insurance. The cost of these services accounts for a little less than 4% of our budget. But we don't quite own our building outright. On July 18, 1995, our congregation took out a 20-year mortgage with the UUA to purchase the property from the New Century Club. We currently make a payment of \$1,445/month to the UUA, and this will continue until July 2015. In addition, on August 4, 2003, we entered into a ten year loan with 1st National Bank of West Chester. We borrowed this money to repair our heating system and make other improvements. We currently make a payment of \$420/month on this loan which will continue until June 2013. These payments account for another 7% of our budget. Finally, we have some member loans outstanding.

We give our building lots of TLC inside and out thanks to many hours of volunteer effort. But sometimes volunteer efforts aren't sufficient to make the repairs needed to maintain an ageing building, and we are at that point now. The Building Committee has been advising the Executive Team on the need to replace our roof as well as mitigate the dampness in the basement. We'd also like to replace the windows in the meeting room. Beautiful as they are, they are not very energy efficient. The cost of these up-grades could be several hundred thousand dollars. The needs are described in our recently issued Long Range Plan. Should we make these investments in our current building? Should we look for a different building? How would we pay for either of these options? Are there others? These are important questions that we will be facing shortly. Please be prepared to offer your opinions and help with the planning and implementation of whatever we decide to do.

As of the end of October, the Fellowship had \$105,528 in financial

## THE COMING DAYS HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS AT UFWC

There is much going on over the month ahead. Here are the special holiday happenings this month. Details for each event are found throughout this issue of *The Fellowtarian*.

### **Dec 4 12:30 p.m.**

Deck the Hall! Please join us as we transform our sanctuary into its festive holiday beauty. Music, hot chocolate and goodies will be provided.

### **Dec 4 7 p.m.**

Providence Chamber Orchestra Holiday Concert. See p. 9.

### **Dec 10 6-10 p.m.**

Holiday Party at Flo and Mike Miller's Home

### **Dec 11 9 and 11 a.m.**

Snow!—an international, multi-generational service for all.

### **Dec 11 6 p.m.**

Vespers Service – for those who are struggling with the holidays this year. All are welcome for a quiet time to acknowledge loss or sadness.

### **Dec 18 4-8 p.m.**

Holiday Party at Paul and Cindy Heck's Home

### **Dec 21 7:30 p.m.**

Celebrate the Solstice – As the days turn away from darkening into light, we will celebrate the turning of the Wheel of the Year.

**Dec 24, Christmas Eve** – It worked out so well last year that we will again have two services on Christmas Eve in hopes that everyone will enjoy their time with us. There may also be some carol singing before the late service.

At 4:30 we will have a special service that will be especially for young children and families. Among the features of this service we will be blessing our stuffed animals, so please bring them with you. We will have music and story too!

At 7 p.m. we will have our Christmas Eve Candle Light Service. With festive music and stories old and new we will lift up the hope and joy of Christmas. Anyone will be welcome to either service or both. We want to make the evening meaningful for people of all ages

### **Dec 31 8 p.m. to midnight**

Holiday Party at Dan Meyer and Eileen Kelly-Meyer's Home



assets of which \$13,000 was in our Social Action Trust and Endowment funds and \$84,650 was in several reserves including \$51,000 in building reserves. This left \$20,800 unrestricted for operations. This last amount is less than we had last year at this time and reflects the drawing down of the savings (carryover) used to bal-

ance the budget. While we are not in danger of running out of money, we have less breathing room today than last year. Subtext – please keep your pledges current and support our fund raising events.

Thank you.

– Mike Miller  
for the Finance Committee

## STONES IN THE SAME WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

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

“This is the first generation in all of recorded history that can do something about the scourge of poverty. We have the means to do it. We can banish hunger from the face of the earth.” Those are the words of Hubert H. Humphrey in 1965 over 45 years ago. He recognized that we have the means and the technology to improve the world. However, it does not always seem that the privileged nations of the world have the will to do what needs to be done.

In our own little part of the world UFWC has continued to contribute food to those in need. We do this through our monthly food collection, food cards, cash donations, and volunteer work that some of our members do at the West Chester Food Cupboard, gleaning for the Food Bank, and meals for Safe Harbor. We contribute through the share-the-plate program with our donations going to local organizations that help people cope with and overcome their poverty. A group of volunteers for Habitat for Humanity have contributed to affordable home ownership that some never dreamed they would own.

Many of us are too busy to contribute our time so we share our “treasure”. For those people with busy lives, a great opportunity to provide service exists on the Martin Luther King Day of Service. If you are available that day, why not put aside your morning to join in the effort? It’s only once a year and involves over 400 volunteers. More about it, in the Connections and next *Fellowtarian*.

– Ed Cohle, Social Justice Chair



### FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION PROJECT

#### THIS MONTH’S SUGGESTED ITEMS: CANNED MEATS

Our monthly food collection is on Sunday, December 4. 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. Please make sure that the date on the food item has not expired. As always, thanks for participating in this project.

## WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT IMMIGRATION?

In 2010, the state of Arizona enacted HB1070 which at the time of passage was the broadest and strictest anti-illegal immigration measure in recent U.S. history. The law generated considerable controversy, including a debate over whether the planned General Assembly 2012 in Phoenix should still be held there. The decision was made to still go to Phoenix, but to change the agenda to center on immigration-related justice work. That same year, the UUA “Common Read” was *The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona-Mexico Borderlands* by Margaret Regan. *Death of Josseline* presents a series of intimate stories from immigrants, activists, human rights workers, and border patrol people and explores the ethical, moral, and spiritual challenges presented by the complex immigration issues on the border.

In the months leading up to our “Justice GA” next June in Phoenix, the Embracing Diversity team will present a series of events and activities around immigration – both as a national issue and in the way it affects our neighbors here in Chester County – and we’ll explore what the UUA is doing and what we can do.

To start the conversation, there will be book discussion groups beginning in January featuring *The Death of Josseline*, which will be available for purchase at the volume discount price at UFWC in December – so get your copy, start reading, and plan to join in the discussion. To reserve a copy of the book or for answers to your questions, contact the Embracing Diversity Team at email: embracing-diversity.

## NEWS OF THE EARTH

The Obama administration responded to public pressure and will delay a decision on the Keystone tar/oil sands pipeline expansion until at least 2013. UU Ministry for Earth is opposed to this project because the pipeline is planned to be built from Alberta, Canada through the U.S. to Texas refineries. It would cross the Ogallala aquifer in Nebraska which is a source of water for much of American agriculture. Potential leaks could be devastating. Also climate expert James Hansen has said that combusting this gas would have “disastrous global climate impacts.” The U.S. State Department said the delay will allow it to assess alternate routes. For more information, see <http://uuministryforearth.org> under News and Events, Fall Newsletter.

– Diane Maguire  
Sustainable Living Group Chair  
email: sustainable-living

## UUPLAN

UUPLAN is the Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network. Members are Unitarian Universalists in Pennsylvania working together to embrace, articulate, and advocate for all goals of social and environmental justice. The commitment and skills of over 6,000 UUs in Pennsylvania are leveraged to raise a loud, effective voice in Harrisburg.

Members care about economic security for all, safe working conditions, safe cities, universal health care, LGBT rights, global warming, renewable energy, comprehensive sexuality education, access to complete reproductive health care, death penalty repeal, fair funding for quality public education, and campaign finance reform.

On October 22, I attended the annual meeting via webinar from the comfort of my own home. UUs from 25 congregations helped select the top issues UUPLAN will be taking to Harrisburg this year: Economic Justice, Environmental Justice, Immigration Reform, and LGBT Equality. I volunteered to be the congregation "insider" for UFWC.

I encourage everyone to consider membership (\$20 annually) in UUPLAN to support their programs ([www.uuplan.org](http://www.uuplan.org)). For more information contact Diane Maguire at email: [uuplan](mailto:uuplan).

## SHARE-THE-PLATE GENEROSITY

We are pleased to announce the share-the-plate recipient on December 18 (third Sunday of the month) is the West Chester Food Cupboard. Hard times have fallen on many of our neighbors in Chester County. The number of people in need of just the basics, such as food, continues to rise. You can help support our neighbors by giving generously for the Food Cupboard. We raised \$430 for Orion Communities in October.

## UUSC UPDATE

It's "Guest at Your Table" time for the U.U. Service Committee. We have had \$3,600 pledged and are challenged to match it. We successfully met the challenge last year. Help us do it again.

If you missed the launch service on November 20, or you were there but did not get a box or an envelope, they are available at the Fellowship. Or you can donate by going on-line to [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org). In any case, please take a "Stories of Hope" booklet, and read a story with your meals.

Memberships are only \$40 per adult or \$75 for couples, with lesser fees for seniors and students, and Guest At Your Table donations of \$100 or more are matched by the Congregation at Shelter Rock.

Please tell either Tom Townsend or Linda Sander if you send an envelope or donate on-line so that our in-house tally coincides with UUSC's records. Boxes and envelopes will be collected in January.

Christmas shopping suggestion: If you are buying books online UUSC receives a percentage of the book sales from the UUSC bookshelf at Powell's Independent Book Store. Go to [www.uusc.org/store/uuscbookshelf](http://www.uusc.org/store/uuscbookshelf) and follow the link in the center of the page.



## WEST CHESTER FOOD CUPBOARD

The West Chester Food Cupboard continues to be grateful for our regular donations of food and service. Thank you to all that have donated goods this month. The Food Cupboard has provided us with a monthly list of requested items and these requests can be found in the weekly email Connections. Occasionally The Food Cupboard will make us aware of other needed items that will be listed as well. This month there continues to be a specific request for personal care items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, toilet paper.

They are also making a plea for added volunteers. The food crisis in our community is growing. No specific talents are required of volunteers. A willingness to work is needed as well as commitment to coming on your allotted shift. There are many time slots open:

Mondays	9 a.m. - noon
Tuesdays	8:30 a.m. - noon and 1 - 4 p.m.
Wednesdays:	1 - 4 p.m. and 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Thursdays:	8:30 a.m. - noon and 1 - 4 p.m.
Saturdays:	8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

If you have questions or would like to know more about volunteering, please contact Shelly Case at email: [food-cupboard](mailto:food-cupboard).

## SUSTAINABLE LIVING EMAIL LIST

Would you like to receive occasional emails about environmental legislation and issues? Would you like to belong to a group at the Fellowship but don't have time to attend meetings? The Sustainable Living group is right for you. The current chairperson focuses on climate change, Marcellus gas hydraulic fracturing and Tar Sands Pipeline. To be included in the group's email distribution list, contact Steve Sander (email: [list-management](mailto:list-management)) and ask to be put on the Sustainable Living group list.

## 2011 AUCTION A BIG SUCCESS

This year's auction was a big success by whatever criteria you use. We received 100 donations (including everything auctioned and raffled). We had a large turn-out (close to 90). We made about \$8,000 net for UFWC, and we came together and had a lot of fun. We were entertained by some of our members and friends in a variety show, we enjoyed a dinner catered by a new member, sampled tasty desserts, and we had an opportunity to bid on a large variety of services.

Thank you to all those who donated items to the auction and to those who solicited donations from local businesses.

Putting on the auction is a big undertaking, and it would not be possible without many volunteers. Thank you to those who organized and performed in the variety show, arranged the dinner, bought and served the drinks, decorated, put together the auction book, put together the raffle baskets, sold tickets, baked desserts, recorded bids, issued invoices, collected money, set up, cleaned up, and did various other jobs during the auction.

Special thanks to Mike Miller and Ed Cohle for being auctioneers when the professional auctioneer we booked cancelled, to Nancy Artus, the Auction Coordinator, and to Mark and Marie Steel who helped Nancy with the planning, organization, publicity, and business solicitations.

If you have any follow-up questions regarding the auction, or if you have suggestions to make next year's auction even better, contact Nancy Artus at email: auction.

## FAIR TRADE ITEMS MAKE GREAT GIFTS

Don't forget that we have Fair Trade Coffee (and tea and chocolate) for sale. It's a self-help display on the landing of the steps going upstairs to the office. So help yourself (and please don't forget to pay in the envelope on the display!). They make great gifts.



## CLOSURE NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

Winter is upon us. This is a reminder to our members and friends about our closure notification procedure. The process is in place to help everyone be informed if we need to cancel Sunday Services or any other big event due to either inclement weather, power loss, or something unforeseen.

- An announcement will be placed on the Fellowship voice mail recording (610-692-5966), if services are cancelled.
- The following radio and TV stations will be notified about Sunday services cancellation due to inclement weather:  
Radio: KYW 1060 AM  
TV: CBS3, NBC10, FOX 29
- You may be directly contacted by phone, or you may get an email about cancellation of Sunday services.
- If possible, a notice on the first page of our web-site will show a cancellation of services.



We hope, by using all types of media, everyone will be informed and most of all safe. If in doubt, call or check the web site. Also, we urge everyone to always keep one "old fashioned" telephone, one that is not wireless or does not require electricity to work, plugged into a telephone outlet somewhere in your house. Should there be a power outage, you may want to be able to make or receive phone calls.

## EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP DECEMBER 11 7-8:30 PM

*The Hundred Secret Senses* by Amy Tan is the story of two sisters, one born in China and one in the U.S. and the ethnic divide which prevents them from truly understanding one another. It is only after they travel to China that the American sister comes to understand what her Chinese sister has been trying to teach her. "If people we love die, then they are lost only to our ordinary senses. If we remember, we can find them anytime with our hundred secret senses." Lorrie McKinley will lead our discussion.



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



## HOLIDAY PARTIES



Please join us in celebrating the holiday season and our community by attending one or more of the parties we have lined up in December. Below are the hosts, dates, times and addresses. The party at the Millers' will feature entertainment by the vocal duo, Harmonium.

To help our hosts with their planning, please try to RSVP a week in advance if you plan to attend, but you are still welcome if you forget to RSVP or decide at the last minute to go. Links to RSVP will be available in the Connections, or you can use the directory to find the host's phone or email. Directions will be available in the back of the sanctuary and as a link from the Connections.

All of the parties are pot-luck. The hosts will provide beverages and one dish, and all guests are asked to bring a dish. Finger food and hors d'oeuvres are preferred since we do not eat at a table. All UFWC members and friends are welcome to any or all of the parties; however, they may not be appropriate for young children.

Mike and Flo Miller	Sat, Dec 10	6-10 p.m.	1143 Fielding Dr., West Chester
Paul and Cindy Heck	Sun, Dec 18	4-8 p.m.	1031 Dunvegan Rd., West Chester
Dan and Eileen Kelly-Meyer	Sat, Dec 31	8 p.m.-midnight	2 Hollow Lane, Downingtown

For general information about UFWC holiday parties, or if you need a ride, contact Nancy Artus at email: holiday-parties.

### PROVIDENCE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA FELLOWSHIP FUNDRAISER (OUR OWN PAM BAXTER PLAYS CELLO WITH THE ORCHESTRA.)

Start off the holiday season with a concert by the Providence Chamber Orchestra here at the Fellowship on Sunday, December 4, at 7 p.m. This is a joint fundraiser with the majority of the proceeds going to support the Fellowship. Please come on out and enjoy holiday tunes along with Classical fare, plus refreshments during intermission. No tickets – we will collect a goodwill offering during the concert.



To add to the fun, children and families are invited to come for holiday activities and pizza beginning at 6 p.m. and to stay for the concert.

Please RSVP to Marie Steel at email: music by November 30, so we'll know how to plan. Little ones are certainly welcome during the program, but if you think you might need child care, please contact Pam Baxter (email: DRE) by November 30.

### WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION SPARKS OF INNER VISIONS - DECEMBER 21 AT 7:30 P.M.

"Our true desires are slumbering within us even as the Earth turns cold outside and plants sleep as next spring's seeds lie beneath ground. If we are in sync with the Earth...our inner world expands. Our attention can be on our inner fires our visions. We will have the opportunity to look deep within ourselves, to recognize a dream or vision of something we'd like to bring into our lives, to bring it into our bodies, walk with it in new ways, and ..." begin to determine how to bring or dance it into our lives.

Come celebrate the cycling of life, honor the darkest night of the year, and join us in our unique earth-based solstice celebration.

– Diane Minka

### FOLK SINGING

The next folk singing get-together is Saturday, December 3, at 8 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. All are welcome. No singing talent or experience is necessary. Capable musicians should bring instruments. Bring a munchie, if you wish. Maps are in the foyer. Contact Steve at email: folk-singing.

### LUNCH GROUP

Lunch group will not meet in December. The next get-together will be January 13.

## FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

*All email addresses @ufwc.org unless otherwise noted.*

- Nov 30 Wed** **Deadline to RSVP for Dec 4 Holiday Activities & Pizza.** See p. 9.  
**Deadline to Request Child Care for Dec 4 Concert.** See p. 9.
- Dec 1 Thu** **Religious Education Committee.** 7 p.m. Youth Group Rm. Contact Heidi Frayer, email: RE
- Dec 3 Sat** **Folk Singing.** 8 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. See p. 9..
- Dec 4 Sun** **First Sunday Food Collection.** Lobby. See p. 6.  
**Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal.** 10:15 a.m. Downstairs. Contact Abby McGillivray, email: intergenerational-choir.  
**Deck the Hall.** 12:30 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 5.  
**Membership Committee.** 12:30-1:30 p.m. Office. Contact Barbara Long, email: membership  
**Holiday Activities and Pizza.** 6 p.m. See p 9.  
**Providence Chamber Orchestra Concert.** 7 p.m. Sanctuary. See p 9.
- Dec 5 Mon** **Embracing Diversity Team.** 7-8:30 p.m. Office. Contact Eileen Kelly-Meyer, email embracing-diversity
- Dec 8 Thu** **Social Justice Committee.** 7:15-9 p.m. Office. Contact Ed Cohle, email: social-justice
- Dec 9-10 Fri-Sat** **Youth Group Movie Night and Sleep Over.** 6 p.m. Sanctuary. Email: youth-group
- Dec 10 Sat** **Women's Retreat Registration Deadline.** See p. 2.  
**Holiday Party at Flo and Mike Miller's Home.** 6-10 p.m. See p. 9.
- Dec 11 Sun** **Intergenerational Choir Sings at Sunday Services.**  
**Young Adult Group.** 12:30-2 p.m. Fireplace Rm.  
**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.
- Dec 15 Thu** **Animal Ministry.** 7-8:30 p.m. Fireplace Rm. Contact John Gribbin, email: animal-ministry  
**Religious Services.** 7:30-9 p.m. Office. Contact Diane Minka, email: religious-services
- Dec 17 Sat** **Holiday Party and Name/Identity Discussion.** See p. 4.  
**Part 1: Name Discussion.** 3-4 p.m.  
**Part 2: Holiday Party.** 4-5:30 p.m.  
**Part 3: Finalizing the List of Suggested Names.** 5:30-7 p.m.
- Dec 18 Sun** **Share the Plate Sunday.** Benefits West Chester Food Cupboard. See p. 7  
**Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal.** 10:15 a.m. Downstairs. Contact Abby McGillivray, email: intergenerational-choir.  
**After Service Potluck.** After the second service. Sanctuary.  
**Holiday Party at Paul and Cindy Heck's Home.** 4-8 p.m. See p. 9.
- Dec 19 Mon** **Men's Discussion Group.** 7-9 p.m. Office. Contact Ralph Mero, email: mens-group
- Dec 21 Wed** **Winter Solstice Celebration.** 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 9.
- Dec 23 Fri** **Christmas Holiday.** Office closed.
- Dec 24 Sat** **Intergenerational Choir sings at 4:30 p.m. service.**  
**Spirit Singers sing at 7 p.m. service.**
- Dec 26 Mon** **Christmas Holiday.** Office closed.
- Dec 27 Tue** **Fellowship Council** 7-9 p.m. Office. Contact Mark Steel, email: program
- Dec 31 Sat** **Holiday Party at Dan and Eileen Kelly-Meyer's Home.** 8-midnight. See p. 9.

### Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Spirit Singers</b> | Practices 7:15-9 p.m. Thursdays Dec 8, Dec 15, Dec 22. Contact Miriam Davidson, email: choir |
| <b>Youth Group</b>    | Meets most Sundays, 10:45-noon. Youth Group Room. Email: youth-group.                        |