

UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP OF WEST CHESTER
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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 January, 2012

January 1

SETTING AN INTENTION FOR THE NEW YEAR

Amanda Lipnack

Many of us look at the new year as an opportunity for change, as a chance to forge a new path. Many of us even make resolutions about how the new year will be different only to find a few weeks in that all of the resolutions have fallen to the side and old habits have returned. Perhaps we can change how we look at the new year and how we look at our lives as the metaphorical odometer turns over.

January 8

UU AND YOU

Rev. Deborah Mero

We have a history. Our history was based on theological understandings. Does our history inform who we are today? Is it still relevant? As we head into the final stretch of making a decision about our name it may be time to look at those "U's" that formed our identity.

January 15

TO BE ANNOUNCED

Guest Minister

Topic not available at press time – will be noted in *Connections* when available.

January 22

LOOKING FOR HOPE

Rev. Deborah Mero

As we begin the new year, it may be time to look at the world in which we live and how we might face the challenges ahead of us. How resilient are we? We may make light of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr's term "beloved community" but it may just be what will guide us into the future.

January 29

QUESTION BOX SUNDAY

Rev. Deborah Mero

We have not had one of these services in a long time. Bring your questions for Rev. Deborah, and she will try to answer them to the best of her ability.

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

THE SONG OF DEBORAH

When I attended the minister's study group in November, we began with a check-in, a challenging thing to do with a group of 50 people. We each had two minutes, max, to share what was going on in our lives and in our congregations.

One of my colleagues who is in her eighth or ninth year with the congregation she serves remarked that with the number of new members who have been joining, she has come to realize that the congregation she now serves is not the congregation she was called to serve. The people have changed – new members replacing those no longer there, new members changing the focus and spirit of the community. She has changed as well. And she recognizes that she needs to be a different minister than she was when she began serving that congregation.

My colleague's brief reflection struck me and continues to give me food for thought. We are changing, I am changing, the world is changing. How do we respond to the need to change and the need to hold on to what we think we know and are?

As I see the influx of new people coming through our doors and returning, the challenge is real. We have many new families and many young adults whom I am eager to get to know. I am also eager to learn what they/you are looking for in a religious community. That is something we all need to find out, because as much as we (and all religious traditions) look to our past to inform who we are, we also need to look to the future to intentionally shape who we are to become.

Where once we were a faith that lifted up "progress, onward and upward forever" as our ideal, that dream may no longer be possible. Yet people are finding us, looking for something to help be a guide on

life's path. To what degree will the newcomers influence who we are to become?

What are the essential elements that are a part of us no matter who comes and goes? What are the characteristics that are always in flux, dependent on the personalities and talents of those who show up?

We are always reinventing ourselves, and any and every day brings us the opportunity to change and grow – if we decide to take it.

Unitarian Universalism is unlike many traditions in that we don't have a regular liturgy or creed that is expressed on Sunday mornings on which our faith is anchored. Yet we do have our common values. Spiritual growth, building community, and acts promoting social justice are essential to who we are, yet they take new shapes and forms with the addition of each new person among us.

The new year is usually a time when we try to re-invent ourselves, we become introspective for at least a short while and imagine ourselves anew. In fact, we are always reinventing ourselves, and any and every day brings us the opportunity to change and grow – if we decide to take it.

What new shapes and forms will we take on in the coming year?

What new gifts and talents will we find among ourselves, and how will they add to the rich mixture that is our congregation? And what will we decide to call ourselves as we move into the future? Time will tell. The prospect is exciting.

And on a side note, I hope you will join me and many others for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. We have several new activities planned for this year, and it promises to be the best year yet. It is a great opportunity for us to work with others in the community and meet new people and make connections as we serve those in need. More complete information will be forthcoming, but please do plan to join us. For our small size, we generally have a large turnout, and it is well worth the effort.

As we enter into 2012, may the new year bring all that we need, sustenance for the soul and the body, laughter and love, meaning and means. May we deal kindly with ourselves and one another. And may there be at least a glimpse of joy now and then.

– Peace and love,
Deborah



A BIG DAY FILLED WITH GOODNESS SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12



There will be only one service at 10 am. David Roth, Deborah's singer/songwriter brother, will be with us sharing the morning service with Deborah. They call it their "Duets." This is always a special treat. The service will be followed by an official congregational meeting to vote on our name. And of course there will be chocolate! This is the Sunday for our annual Feast of Decadent Chocolate. It is a great Sunday to bring a friend and show them the best of all we have to offer. Later in the early evening David will be with us to do a concert. Yes, it will be a very full day.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I wish each of you Happy Holidays now and throughout the New Year. In 2012, we will fulfill one of our resolutions when we vote on whether to keep the name of The Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester or take on a new name. Some of you are asking, "What is all this fuss about the name? – it's just a name."

It is true that, for example, I could have been named Jane by my parents at birth, and it might not have made any difference in my life, but the name of an organization is a different matter. The name can say something about the organization. In terms of our current name, the UFWC doesn't roll right off the tongue, and some people connect the term *fellowship* with some conservative Christian churches. We have been wondering if we can agree upon a name that better describes our beliefs and our congregation's mission.

This process may have seemed tedious and slow to you, but think how important the naming of a child is to parents and then remember that our Fellowship has over 180 "parents". A lot of thought goes into naming something that is precious. Our current name is what our founders chose in 1954. At the time it was right. Times have changed. Our challenges have changed. The internet and social media have changed our world, and we need to consider changing our name to be more engaging through name recognition and appeal.

It is important that we all take an interest in this process. Elsewhere in this newsletter, the Name Exploration Committee will give you an update on the process and inform you of the next step in the process. While we have welcomed everyone's input in the suggestion and discussion of names, choosing the name is an issue which will require a resolution by the membership; therefore only individuals who are members may vote in the remainder of the selection process.

The Name Exploration Committee hopes to present a resolution at the congregational meeting on February 12 to vote on the choice of keeping our present name or taking on the new name that we are in the process of selecting. According to the Fellowship's by-laws, only those who have been members for 30 days may vote at a congregational meeting. Therefore, anyone who is or becomes a member by January 12 may vote on February 12.

This resolution is not one to take lightly. I assure you that once this resolution is voted on in February, whichever way the vote goes, this naming resolution topic will not be taken up again by the Board for a long time. We have not rushed through this project, because it is essential that all members and friends have the opportunity to discuss the concept of naming, branding, and identity as well as to suggest potential names. We had nine discussion groups over the course of three months as well as opportunities to email ideas. Now we must give thought to the specific names that were favored at the latest gathering in December. Our Fellowship community is precious to us – what name will we choose?

– Mary Yeager



STEWARDSHIP GALA COMING IN MARCH

The newly formed Stewardship committee had its first meeting this week. We had a bit of a late start due to crazy schedules on everyone's parts, but we had a good discussion.

First, we decided to hold a gala event celebrating our congregation and all we do. We're planning one for March – details to follow and ideas welcome.

Second, we'd like to organize group meetings this year to discuss stewardship, perhaps organized around the many interest groups within the congregation, and put a theme to each discussion, with other ideas welcome.

Finally, we have agreed that stewardship should be a standing year-round committee, should be widely defined to include participation in the mission in addition to financial issues, should have a long-term as well as a short-term focus, and that the information should be transparent, readily available, and frequently communicated.

It's important to focus on the value that the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester brings to us, to our families, and to the community in general – and maybe even better to focus on the potential yet untapped. In this light, stewardship is about taking care of something we love, and it could and should even be fun.

As soon as a date for the March event is finalized, I would like everyone to plan to be there. We want to fill this place. There will be food, entertainment and general celebration. And we are actively seeking any additional voices to the stewardship discussion, even if you just give your ideas – better still if you help us with some of the many tasks. Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the office.

– Bob Scott

Stewardship Committee Chair

REMARKS – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE THE ARTISTRY OF RE

Last fall I had the opportunity to sit down at a potting wheel and be instructed in the art of “throwing” pots. This included the mysterious process of “centering.” And before I get too Zen about it, let me say that the process also included many moments of both frustration and hilarity, as chunks of clay occasionally flew off and I was left with an ever-dwindling mass to work with.

Out of that first clay experience I was actually able to make a small pot. It’s not perfect – one side sits a little lower than the other – but it’s whole, and it’s beautiful. It will hold whatever I choose to place in it, or it can simply hold space. The process also led me to a moment of reflection about RE, and it seemed a good thought on which to start the new calendar year.

Both the RE Committee and I spend a fair amount of time asking ourselves these questions: “What is the purpose of UU religious education? What are our goals? Who and what do we hope the children of our congregation will become? If, by our encouraging children to have ‘open minds,’ they decide to follow a non-UU path, is that successful UU religious education?”

Of course we want our children to learn about Unitarian Universalism, and there is much to explore and understand. But I think our goal needs to be more than filling children’s minds with everything we want them to know and understand about our faith.

With my hands on the spinning clay, I had a vision of our RE program as an art studio where we work on shaping beautiful (not perfect!) containers. Where we accept the lumps of clay that land on our wheel, center them, shape them as the clay seems to want to go. Where we try to make containers that are well-formed, balanced, and with space to contain all that a child might hold in it: our UU principles and values; our hopes and our deeds; their own hopes and deeds.

As with clay, “pieces of a pot” may sometimes go flying off unexpectedly, but who knows? Maybe those pieces are necessary discards; something that might keep a child from his or her center. In that way, we help our young people winnow down and refine from all the possible spiritual and religious paths they might follow; help them find their own center, open up space to hold what is true for them; help them stand upright and centered, able to hold space for whatever Life brings them.

– Pam Baxter
Director of Religious Education

A VIEW FROM THE PAST...TOWARD THE FUTURE

In January 2007, the Ministerial Search Committee was hard at work leading the effort that would ultimately call the Reverend Deborah Mero to be our minister. A glance at a typical monthly calendar from the time shows regular meetings of the small group ministry, the simplicity circle, the choir, the folk singing group; pot luck and game night, and the yoga group, plus our efforts to help others by preparing and serving meals at Safe Harbor and at the Salvation Army. Then, as now, the congregation resonated with joyous social events, with devoted efforts to minister to each other and to the wider community, and with a deep commitment to be a beacon of liberal religion in West Chester. Our fire was bright then and is growing even brighter today. Join us to add your light with ours as we grow our spiritual home.

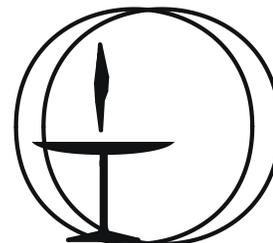
– Rob Sartain

BOARD OF TRUSTEES FUND-RAISING AND NAMES

The Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester Board of Trustees met on Sunday, December 4, 2011. The Board agreed to move forward with the new Stream Energy Power Up fundraiser offered by Jack Butler. Under this program, the Fellowship will be able to receive \$4 per month for each member who signs up as a customer for this electric energy program. Detailed information about the program and how UFWC members who are interested can participate will be available soon.

Other action by the Board included a motion to call a meeting of the membership on February 12, 2012 for the purpose of making a final decision on whether or not to change our name. Plans for moving forward with on-going concerns, including ends monitoring, the long-range plan and growth, and leadership development were also 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 will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fellowship. 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.



FROM THE NAME/IDENTITY TEAM THE NEXT ROUND OF VOTING STARTS IN JANUARY

Our December 17 meeting and holiday party were a great success with 39 members and friends in attendance. Each attendee was given two dots to place next to his/her two top name choices, and we were able to narrow the list from 67 name possibilities to seven clear favorites. All of the top vote getters had either "Brandywine" or "West Chester" in the name. Various combinations of "Unitarian" and "Universalist" were in each of the names. "Congregation" also made an appearance in several of the choices. A complete list of the winning names will be available in the sanctuary.

Now we are on to the next step and one step closer to our final vote on February 12 (Whew!). Our goal is to have one top name choice so we can have a final vote on February 12 to either change to that option or keep our current name.

We will complete this next vote online for members only. Remember, if you would like to vote in February, you must become a member by January 12 by contacting either Deborah or someone from the Membership Team.

By January 1, members will receive voting instructions via email from "ufwc1pc". If there is more than one member in your household, but only one email address, you must send us an alternative email for each additional member so all votes can be counted. If you do not have alternative email capability, please send your additional votes to email: name, and those votes will be added to the final tally.

For those members who prefer to use regular mail, a paper ballot will be sent to you.

Hopefully, a clear winner will be evident in the first round of voting; however, if a winner is not apparent, a second round with the top choices from round 1 will take place. The first round of voting will end at 10 p.m. on January 15. If a second vote is required, voting for round 2 will end at 10 p.m. on February 1.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at email: name. A member of the team will respond as quickly as possible.

As always, the team is grateful to all the members and friends who have been and continue to be engaged in this process.

REINTRODUCING OUR COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Our Committee on Ministry (COM) has a special purpose which we believe contributes to the life of our congregation. Our COM is charged with monitoring the heart-beat of the ministries within the congregation; how the members take care of themselves and each other; how the lay ministerial leadership supports the congregation; and how our called minister serves the congregation. The COM will support, and advocate for our vision of shared ministry, providing objective oversight of the quality of our relationships evidenced through our various ministries.

There are four members of the Committee on Ministry. Currently they are Betty Grosse, Paul Heck, Sue Johnston, and Michael Werner. The Committee on Ministry can be reached at email: com.

This is the first of multiple articles from the Committee on Ministry. Over the next several months we will be providing insights and details on our various UFWC ministries.

ANNUAL NEW MEMBER POT-LUCK DINNER

Back by popular demand – we had well over 120 attending last year – the gathering to honor our newest members will be held, January 29 at 6 p.m. in our sanctuary.

It is a perfect time of year to be together as members and friends of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester. So bring your favorite main dish or dessert for all to enjoy. Our newest members, of course, are exempt from this task, as they are our guests for this occasion.

The evening will conclude with musical entertainment; stay tuned for that announcement. We'll have fun door prizes and ice-breaker games to liven the evening.

This year a special grand prize will be awarded for the one who submits the best NEW "getting to know you" game for this years party. Please contact Barbara Long at email: membership. It will be fun to see what our creative UU's come up with. (Robin Garret is the author of the lively game we have enjoyed for the past years – thanks Robin.) You are cordially invited to come and share in the excitement.



STONES IN THE SAME WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

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

Martin Luther King Jr. wrote that, “The good neighbor looks beyond the external accidents and discerns those inner qualities that make all men human and, therefore, brothers.” Being a good neighbor goes beyond the acceptance of the inner qualities. It also means that we must engage in acts that affirm our collective humanness by improving the lives of those in need. A mentor of mine once defined justice as wanting others to be able to have what he was lucky enough to have. Sometimes it just comes down to the basics like food, shelter, and clothing not to mention education, healthcare, and employment to name a few. The Martin Luther King Day of Service on January 16, 2012 will give you an opportunity to do just that. See our article in this issue of the *Fellowtarian*. Put aside the morning that day. You will get to meet some nice folks and to contribute to the well-being of our community.

The Embracing Diversity Team is off to a great start selling the book *The Death Of Josseline*, a book about immigration stories that will surely elicit an emotional response from you. Several discussion groups will meet sometime in the last half of February to talk about the book. About 20 people have already signed up. This is a congregational read, and it would be nice to see most of the congregation participate. Invitations have been given (and accepted) to people in the Hispanic community to participate with us to add depth to our discussions. This is the first of several planned events that will lead up to the General Assembly in Phoenix in June. Thousands of UUs will gather there for social action, workshops, etc. Books can be purchased after services on Sundays or by “googling” the book title on the internet.

– Ed Cohle, Social Justice Chair

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED KENNETT SQUARE FAMILY CENTER

There is so much need for help this year. The economy has created limited dollars available through private and governmental bodies for worthy services in our area. We have been cultivating a relationship with the director of the Kennett Square Family Center, a service operated by the Maternal and Child Health Consortium which serves many in the Hispanic community.

They have several ways that you can support their efforts. Contact Nelly Arevalo at narevalo@ccmchc.org to find out how you can adopt-a-family, give gift cards to specific stores in their area and/or give a gift to a child in their program. You can also talk to the person at the grocery card table after the Sunday service about how to donate food cards.

YOUR CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MLK DAY OF SERVICE

Monday, January 16, is the Martin Luther King Day of Service. Along with a number of other congregations, we will meet at St. Paul's Baptist Church that morning for registration at 8 a.m. We will then spend the next several hours in service projects. There will be projects that kids can participate in as well as activities for children at St. Paul's. After the projects, lunch will be provided back at St. Paul's with a closing gathering.



You will be able to preregister for the project of your choice at www.stpaulsbaptist.org sometime in the beginning of January. Outerwear for the winter months is needed for the clothes closet at St. Paul's as well as donated books for children. (A list of suggested books will be provided.) We will be collecting these items in the lobby on Sunday, January 8.

Projects will include packaging of dried food for shipment to countries in need around the globe, a voter registration drive, food collection, working in a food kitchen, cleaning and painting at local social service agencies, knitting caps for babies, creating cards for soldiers, and singing at nursing homes to name a but a few. A family-oriented food collection from your neighbors on that day is a great project that takes only a little time (we will make materials on how to do that available in *Connections* early in January). We expect 400 or more people to participate in this event as in the past two years.

ANIMAL MINISTRY NEWS

Three members of the Fellowship's Animal Ministry Chapter visited the Francisvale Home for Smaller Animals on December 8 and want to recommend this no-kill shelter as an excellent volunteer opportunity for animal advocates. Located in Radnor, Pennsylvania, the shelter provides lifesaving treatment and adoption services – about 30 dogs and cats are in care at this time. Volunteer time and donations are essential to stay in operation. Check out www.francisvalehome.org or call 610-688-1018 for more information.

The next meeting of the Animal Ministry Group is January 19 at 7 p.m. in the fireplace room. All are welcome. Contact John Gribbin at email: animal-ministry.

SHARE-THE-PLATE GENEROSITY

We are pleased to announce the share-the-plate recipient on January 15 (third Sunday of the month) is Habitat for Humanity. One third of the people in our nation have housing problems. Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to providing decent, affordable homes for those in need. Decent, stable housing leads to stability for the children, growth in a family's sense of dignity and pride, improvements in health, physical safety and security, and an increase in educational and job prospects. As always, thanks for your contributions to the West Chester Food Cupboard in December.

SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION PROJECT THIS MONTH'S SUGGESTED ITEMS: CANNED FRUIT

Our monthly food collection is moved to Sunday, January 8, this month. 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.

DO YOUR PART TO HELP OUR HUNGRY NEIGHBORS

It is time again to renew our commitment to helping provide meals to hungry people in our area. As an important part of our Social Justice program in the West Chester community, UFWC (that means you and me) prepares and serves dinner at the Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter every second Sunday of the month.

This is how it works: For each meal, we have one "Lead Chef" and two "Helpers". The lead plans the menu, contacts the helpers, and provides and cooks a part of the meal, usually the main dish. The helpers assist by providing a portion of the meal. The meals must feed between 25-35 people. The lead usually serves the meal at the shelter and the helpers are welcome, but not required to help serve.

Generally, a person or family signs up to be a lead one time a year and a helper two times a year. It is fine if you want to do more or less than that, or if you only want to be a lead or only want to be a helper. Please note that chefs must be at least 12 years old to help serve at Safe Harbor.

To get on the schedule for this year, contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy at email: safe-harbor and let her know:

1. Your name, phone number and e-mail address
2. Your availability – e.g. any months you are not available. (The schedule runs from February, 2012 to March, 2013.) – also, if you prefer to help more or less than three times.
3. If you are a veteran volunteer, please e-mail Sharon, so she knows for sure you are able and willing to continue volunteering, and so she can meet your preference in scheduling.

A special note to new people – Welcome!! There are many of us that have been doing this for a while, and it's a very easy way to make a small contribution to our community. I'm happy to answer any questions, and plenty of help is available. New volunteers are usually put on as Helpers until they are comfortable being Lead Chefs.

Try it – you'll like it. Thank you all so much.

– Sharon Mayer-Conroy



A WIN-WIN SITUATION

The end of the holidays doesn't have to be the end of Fair Trade Coffee (and tea and chocolate). Check out our self-help display on the landing of the steps going upstairs to the office. Help yourself – and please don't forget to pay in the envelope on the display.

Make the world a better place by supporting fair trade products and rejecting the exploitation of workers throughout the world. Great products and making the world a better place! What more could you ask?

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is in the process of identifying potential candidates for leadership positions for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012. If you are interested in participating in a leadership position, or if there is a UFWC member you think deserves consideration, please contact any member of the committee (Barb Long, Mira Tryon, Gerry Giess) or email: nominating.



EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

JANUARY 8

7-8:30 P.M.



The Story of Beautiful Girl by Rachel Simon. It is 1968. Linnie, a young white woman with a developmental disability, and Homan, an African American deaf man, are locked away in an institution, the School for the Incurable and Feeble-minded, and have been left to languish, forgotten. Deeply in love, they escape, and find refuge in the farmhouse of Martha, a retired schoolteacher and widow. But the couple is not alone – Linnie has just given birth to a baby girl.

And so begins the 40-year epic journey of Linnie, Homan, Martha, and baby Julia – lives divided by seemingly insurmountable obstacles, yet drawn together by a secret pact and extraordinary love.

Pam Sapko will lead our discussion of this amazing story. For more information please contact us at email: diversity-book-group or call Ruth MacFadyen or Shelly Case. All are Welcome

UUSC UPDATE

January is the time to turn in your “Guest at Your Table” boxes (please replace cash with a check made out to “UUSC”). Enter the sanctuary and turn right. Look for the sign and light green tub in the corner next to the bathroom. Drop in your box. (If you didn’t get a box, you can take an envelope, fill it out, and mail it with your check or do it on-line at www.uusc.org).

P.S. We collected \$911 for the UUSC selling holiday cards and merchandise. A great big “thank you” from your UUSC reps and UUSC.



FINANCIALLY YOURS

I’ve been hearing a lot recently about “lay-away” plans and the people who are struggling to complete those plans in time to buy some holiday cheer for their families. Some are having trouble meeting that holiday deadline, but the good news is that there has been an up-tick in the number of kind hearted “lay-away” Santas contributing anonymously to the hopes and dreams that those plans represent. Generosity is alive and well and is its own reward even without recognition.

UFWC is sort of on a “lay-away” plan itself. We lay away our hopes and dreams and seek to enjoy them in the fulfillment of our mission. But we know that like the department store lay-away plans, we have to fund our plans, and we do this with our pledges of financial support. Our pledges are our promises to support our mission, and every month we must ensure that additional money is put against our account.

This year, however, the account is running a little behind. A little over 70% of our income comes from the pledges that we, the members and friends of UFWC, made last spring to fund the programs, people and plant that advance our mission. That’s 70% of our roughly \$268,000 budget or \$188,000 for the year. During the first half of our fiscal year we usually find ourselves ahead of where we expect to be in pledge income. Last year for example, we were at 105% of our pledge income budget for the first five months of the year. This year, however, is not usual, and we find ourselves at not quite 89% of budget for the same period. What to do? You know the answer. We have to be our own “lay-away” Santas and make payments on our pledges as regular as a lay away plan. So since this is the right time of the year for giving presents, let’s give to ourselves.

My special nomination for UFWC “lay-away” Santa is Tom Buglio. Tom has been working diligently on the on-line flea market. This is a lot of work collecting items, posting them on E-bay, contacting buyers, and packing and shipping items. And so far he has single handedly raised over \$1,600 for our general fund. Many thanks, Tom, and is it true that you sometimes deliver your items in a sleigh pulled by reindeer?

And thanks also to the group of helpers who brought you the 24th Annual Service Auction. Special thanks to Nancy Artus and Marie Steel and so many more. So far the income received from the auction is \$7,739 with more to be collected. Great job!

– Mike Miller for the
Finance Committee

GAME NIGHT

Join us for a Potluck Dinner followed by fun with all kinds of games. Last month some played Uno Attack, while others played Sequence, and another group played Magic the Gathering. As you can see there was a quite a variety. Other weeks, we have played Scrabble, MadGab, Scattegories, Wizards, and many others.

We can't tell you what we will be playing on Friday, January 6, because it is up to those who come. Sometimes we try something new, but there are always people wanting to play old favorites too. Come and join the fun. Bring what you like to play – if you forget there are plenty of games here.

Don't worry about dinner. If you don't have time to cook, pick up a pizza or cookies on the way. Bring a dish and a beverage (if you want something other than water) to share. It is a great way to end the work week or start the weekend.

We open the doors at 6:30 p.m. and start games around 7:15 p.m. We are usually done between 8:30 and 9:45, but you can leave whenever you are ready. If you are late, we will let you join the game or start a new one. Just come. There is no need to call ahead, but if you have any questions contact Mary Yeager at email: game-night.



COFFEE HOUSE

Next coffee house is Saturday, January 7, at 7 p.m. with a snow date of January 21.

The featured act is Ed Podziomek. Ed entertains regularly at local places and retirement homes. Ed plays guitar country and soft rock style (including Johnny Cash tunes, for example). He is a native of East Bradford Township.

This venue continues to be a fund raiser for UFWC with a \$5 suggested donation at the door.



FOLK SINGING

The next folk singing get-together is Saturday, January 28, 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 meet Friday, January 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.

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS TAKE-DOWN

We would like to thank everyone for coming out to help decorate the Fellowship for the holidays. It is beautiful! Help is needed to take down the decorations on Saturday, January 7, from 9-10 a.m. RSVP to email: poinsettias.

NOTE: The Poinsettia and Wreath Fundraiser was a great success. Thanks to all, especially those who helped us estimate by pre-ordering.

– Sandy Retzlaff and Paulette Buglio

JANUARY'S AFTER SERVICE POTLUCK

Please join us once again for our monthly after service potluck on January 15 at noon. If you go to the 9 a.m. service, please come back for lunch.

FUND RAISER FOLLOW-UP

The Providence Chamber Orchestra concert was a great success with over 85 people in attendance. We were able to raise over \$800 after expenses of which the Fellowship got over \$480.

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

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Mary Yeager, Presidentemail: 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.

- Jan 2 Mon New Year Holiday.** Office closed.
Embracing Diversity Team. 7-8:30 p.m. Office. Contact Eileen Kelly-Meyer, email embracing-diversity
- Jan 3 Tue Stewardship Committee.** 7:30 p.m. Office. Contact Bob Scott, email: stewardship. See p. 3.
- Jan 5 Thu Religious Education Committee.** 7 p.m. Youth Group Rm. Contact Heidi Frayer, email: RE
- Jan 6 Fri Potluck and Game Night.** 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30). Sanctuary. See p. 9.
- Jan 7 Sat Take Down Holiday Decorations.** 9-10 a.m. Sanctuary. See p. 9.
Coffee House. 7-10 p.m. Sanctuary. Contact Judi Perry, email: coffee-house. See p. 9.
- Jan 8 Sun First Sunday Food Collection (Second Sunday this month).** Lobby. See p. 7.
Membership Committee. 10:15 a.m. Office. Contact Barbara Long, email: membership
Young Adult Group. 12:30-2 p.m. Fireplace Rm. Contact; Az Azarak, email: young-adults
Safe Harbor Dinner. 6 p.m. Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. To help, see p. 7.
Exploring Diversity Book Group. 7-8:30 p.m. Office. See p. 8.
- Jan 10 Tue Board Meeting.** 7 p.m. Office. All are welcome. Contact Mary Yeager, email: president. See p. 4.
- Jan 12 Thu Social Justice Committee.** 7:15-9 p.m. Office. Contact Ed Cohle, email: social-justice. See p. 6.
- Jan 13 Fri Lunch Group.** 11:30 a.m. Panera Bread. See p. 9.
- Jan 13-15 Fri-Sun Women's Retreat.** Offsite. Contact Rev. Mero, email: minister
- Jan 14 Sat RE Committee Annual Retreat.** 9 am - 1 pm. Sanctuary. Contact email: RE
- Jan 15 Sun Share the Plate Sunday.** Benefits Habitat for Humanity. See p. 7
After Service Potluck. After the second service. Sanctuary. Contact: Lauren Kelly, email: fun. See p. 9.
Meditation Group. 5-6:30 p.m., Sanctuary. Contact Harriet Singer, email: meditation.
First Round of Name Voting Ends 10 p.m. See p. 5.
- Jan 16 Mon Martin Luther King Day of Service.** 8 a.m. St Paul's Baptist Church. See p. 6.
Men's Discussion Group. 7-9 p.m. Office. Contact Ralph Mero, email: mens-group
Women's Circle. 7-9 p.m. Lobby. Contact Debby Kern, email: womens-circle
- Jan 19 Thu Animal Ministry.** 7-8:30 p.m. Fireplace Rm. Contact John Gribbin, email: animal-ministry. See p. 6.
Religious Services. 7:30-9 p.m. Office. Contact Diane Minka, email: religious-services
- Jan 21 Sat Snow Date for Coffee House.** See January 7.
- Jan 22 Sun Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal.** 10:15 a.m. Downstairs. Contact Abby McGillivray, email: intergenerational-choir.
Young Adult Group. 12:30-2 p.m. Fireplace Rm. Contact; Az Azarak, email: young-adults
- Jan 23 Mon Communications Team.** 7 p.m. Office. Contact Sandy Retzlaff, email: communication
- Jan 24 Tue Fellowship Council.** 7-9 p.m. Office. Contact Mark Steel, email: program
- Jan 25 Wed Parent Support Group.** 7 p.m. Office. Contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: parent-support
- Jan 28 Sat Folk Singing.** 8 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. See p. 9.
- Jan 29 Sun Annual New Member Pot-Luck Dinner.** 6 p.m. Sanctuary. Contact Barbara Long, email: membership. See p. 5.

Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

- Spirit Singers** Practices 7:30-9 p.m. Jan 5,11, 19; Choir sings Jan 22. Contact Miriam Davidson, email: choir
- Youth Group** Meets most Sundays, 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Youth Group Room. Email: youth-group.