

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



the
FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

Telephone: 610-692-5966 Web: www.ucwc.org

Our Mission: *As a diverse liberal faith congregation, we make a difference in our lives, our children's lives, and the wider community by creating an environment for spiritual growth and fulfillment, for building meaningful connections, and for actively advancing peace and justice in the world.*

SUNDAY SERVICES May 2013

May 5

42

Rev. Deborah Mero

The last time I talked about 42 from the pulpit, it was the answer to a big question. Now there is a movie with that title about one of the greatest baseball players in history. Is there a correlation? I plan to see the movie any day now and will see if there is. Both touch on the fundamental stuff of life.

May 12

SPENDING SOULS

Rev. Deborah Mero

If the opposite of saving is spending, how does that relate to us theologically? We hear a lot of talk about saving souls – “out there,” not necessarily in our UU churches. What might be our response to those who think we need to be saved?

May 19

MUSIC SUNDAY

Spirit Singers and Guests

Single Service at 10 a.m.

A musical taste treat for your senses is planned. Led by Miriam Davidson, our choir director, the Spirit Singers, and special guests, this morning's service will be sure to delight the senses and celebrate spring.

May 26

**ETHICAL EATING AND
BEHIND THE KITCHEN DOOR, PART 2**

Tom Townsend

Tom Townsend will expand on what Rev. Mero began on April 14. Also included will be more information about the UU Service Committee, the only Human Rights organization that begins with the letters “UU”.

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

THE SONG OF DEBORAH

As I write this, it has been an epic week. I had fully intended to use this space to write further about our service on Sunday April 14, when those who were there decided we would undertake a research project. I will write about that separately. I can't get my head out of Boston, the town I have spent more time in than probably any other.

When I first arrived in Boston, I actually took an apartment in the city and watched my first marathon from my front door as the runners ran by my building. People set up their fold-up chairs on the sidewalk and cheered on the runners and the wheel chairs. For most of my years in the area I lived nearer to Hopkinton where the race starts. The small town would balloon in size for that one day a year. Festive doesn't begin to describe it. Last Monday began as usual. Four hours and ten minutes later it ended. Three innocent lives also ended. One hundred seventy other people were injured. Their lives will never be the same nor will anyone who was there. And now, five days later, a mere five days, so much has happened that will not be forgotten.

A faith tradition cannot be blamed for the actions of individual followers.

On Wednesday, the new Senior Senator from Massachusetts, Elizabeth Warren, gave her "maiden" speech on the floor of the U.S. Senate. In it she quoted the Pilgrim John Winthrop:

"...to do justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with our God. For this end, we must be knit together, in this work, as one man... We must delight in each other; make others' conditions our own; rejoice together, mourn together, labor and suffer together... So shall we keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace."

That's the spirit that created this country, and, mostly, it has been on display in the past week in Boston, in West, Texas, and still in Sandy Hook, Connecticut. We, the people, don't want to see ourselves as a torn, polarized people. Not with our neighbors, not within our communities. It may take big things to bring us together, but it takes little to disturb or rupture that unity that we so proudly witness in large symbolic events. Now that we know the bombers had an Islamic background, will that be used to misdirect anger at a whole people? I hope and pray not. A faith tradition cannot be blamed for the actions of individual followers.

My greatest hope is that we get to see our system of justice really show itself off for what it is supposed to be – not what we have witnessed for so long lately. Every citizen of this country deserves his or her day in court. The whole story needs to be told. I have seen far too many examples of this not happening in my lifetime. "Unity of the spirit in the bond of peace" requires justice.

Speaking of peace – the hero in the white cowboy hat who saved the life of Jeff Bauman, the man who lost both of his legs from the bomb, is named Carlos Arredondo. He has been a peace activist for years since his son was killed in Iraq. I met him at several events back in my Boston days. He's a member of the Smedley Butler Brigade of the Veterans for Peace.

– Yours in peace,
Deborah

HOSPITALITY TEAM GREETERS

The Membership committee wishes thank all of the Hospitality Team greeters. You are the first impression a visitor has of UCWC and the key to prospective new members. As a reminder, the below are pointers for a successful experience at the Welcome Table. This list is also located at the Welcome Table.

- Turn on all lamps in the lobby, including the lamp on steps, lighting the Welcome Table sign.
- Offer a warm greeting to all who come in, even long standing members and friends. You help set the tune to a warm feeling.
- Have the visitor make a name tag (welcome label inserted into a plastic sleeve) – first and last name please.
- Hand them the information sheet to be filled out at their seat and either dropped in the offering plate or left at the desk on the way out. Please see that these are then placed on the clip board in the office, next to the attendance clipboard.
- Give them the Information Material, located in the plastic holder. It is a new format and not in an envelope. This way we hope they will check it out during the service.
- Remain in the lobby once the doors are closed to welcome late-comers.
- Assist with the usher in taking up the collection, record the head count on the clipboard.
- Return to the Welcome Table to answer any questions at the end of the service. Try to engage the visitor in a conversation, indicating that you hope to see them again soon.

If you have questions, email Barbara Long at email: membership. Your willingness to fill this valuable position is key to our success as a growing community.

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

**501 South High Street
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last month I asked you all to attend a Town Meeting for our congregation on May 11 to discuss the health of our congregation and mission – but what is congregational health? A healthy congregation is alive. Like life, the congregation faces a continuous struggle for balance – the vision of the members and friends, the needs of our guests, the incidences in our community, and the tides of human and natural events. These needs and influences are not always in sync. Balance is health. Imbalance is sickness. How does a congregation respond to challenges such as change and maintain its health? What kind of interactions and relationships happen in a healthy congregation? Here are some facets of a healthy congregation presented in a workshop prepared by Peter Steinke. As you read them think of how each of these statements applies to us as a congregation and to us individually:

- A healthy congregation accepts differences – whether it is differences in lifestyles or opinions. It responds to include differences rather than to distance itself or change the other.
 - A healthy congregation focuses on its strength. It asks what it can accomplish rather than complaining about shortcomings.
 - A healthy congregation focuses on vision/mission/goals instead of just keeping going or harping on one issue.
 - Healthy congregations respond to anxiety and change instead of reacting to it. Healthy congregations take the time to consider what the holistic response should be instead of a knee-jerk fear-based reaction.
 - Healthy congregations act flexibly and creatively instead of rigidly.
 - Healthy congregations manage conflict instead of ignoring or avoiding it; there will always be
- conflict – it is neither bad nor good – it just is. How you face conflict is what is important. Discussing problems must be encouraged in an open and mature manner. Leaders can use times of upheaval for discussion to challenge its members to examine their shared goals and concerns and their personal fears.
 - In healthy congregations people respond graciously and truthfully rather than judgmentally or secretively.
 - In healthy congregations people empower each other instead of trying to dominate or change each other.
 - Healthy congregations recognize the interdependent web of life.
 - Healthy congregations practice stewardship gratefully and willingly instead of grudgingly.
 - In healthy congregations people share their lives.
 - Healthy congregations offer hospitality to all (not just favorites or the like-minded)
 - In healthy congregations “beginning again” is a way of life (instead of staying stuck in old patterns).

We may think of disease as a contagion that can spread from person to person, but I ask you to think of health that way too. I hope you all know people who make you feel better just by talking to them or being with them. I think many of us are here because of that feeling. We have caught the health bug from someone(s) here. Remember we are each part of that happy contagion. Health doesn't depend on us meeting our goal or vision – rather on being part of the process – the adjustments we make on our journey together. We may not meet our every goal – that doesn't mean we aren't healthy – rather ask are we growing in spirit as individuals and as a community? Are we maturing? Are we becoming more aware?

Join us on May 11 so that we can nurture our strengths and look forward with confidence in ourselves and our congregational family with a warm heart and an open mind to the tasks ahead.

– Mary Yeager, President of the
Board of Trustees
email: president

TOWN MEETING

We will have a Town Meeting on Saturday, May 11, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This gathering is vital to the health and future of our congregation. All members and friends are asked to attend. This discussion of the congregation's health and mission/vision will be used to guide the Board and executive team's future plans. Babysitting will be provided if you notify us in advance at email: board.

You are also welcome to stay for the afternoon session as well (11:30-2:30) where the congregation's leadership will use your comments to shape our plans for the year ahead.

Please come. We need to hear from you.

ANNUAL REPORT TIME

It's time to start thinking about and writing our annual reports that tell the congregation what each of our committees and task forces has been accomplishing this year. Every year we go through this exercise only to realize how much we really have done. Unless we write it down and take stock, it is easy to think we have not done much. The congregation's annual report tells us otherwise. Please start talking about this in your committees and groups, so that we can gather up all of the information by May 15 for the June 2 Annual Meeting.

NOTES OF APPRECIATION - RALPH MERO

I was visiting my mother in Toledo one spring, and decided to attend the local Unitarian congregation's Sunday service. The service started with *Dialog on Flowers*, a short play-like narrative between a prisoner and a concentration camp guard discussing the beauty of flowers – written by Ralph Mero! Surprised, I looked around to see if he was among us. Ralph's handy work is found everywhere it seems.

In our congregation's quest to bring recognition to those among us who consistently do good, help others, and show the energy and compassion



that we strive for, seldom do we think of the minister's spouse. This month we will.

Born in Seattle and raised in Chicago, Ralph found the Unitarian ministry when he moved back to

Seattle and raised a family. His father was a WWI pilot and engineer, his mother a lover of books. Ralph combined these with a natural curiosity, a drive to figure things out, and a voracious reader who considers the library his second home.

It's my impression that a lifetime of helping others, standing up for those marginalized

in today's society, and constantly volunteering his time and talent has left Ralph a little exhausted by it all. But he can no more stop himself from pursuing the core mission of the UCWC as we can stop the wind. He wakes every day with a plan on contributing, checks his schedule, and goes.

Here's a short rundown of what he has juggled on and off throughout the year(s):

- Gleaning in the fall, whenever asked by Tom Townsend
- Friends of the Library awareness, fund raising and support
- West Chester Food Cupboard volunteer and awareness weekly
- Planned Parenthood of West Chester
- Job loss focus groups and services to help congregants get back on their feet
- Active participation in ending gun violence through the WCCPGV
- Many rallies in Harrisburg and elsewhere on issues aligned with our mission
- Easing the pain of those in our congregation who have endured personal struggles
- Writing and submitting editorials and opinions to local papers on issues aligned with our principles
- Taking people to lunch, on walks or in their homes to lend his ear and ease their troubles

And, that's just a start...there's previous work he's done for the "right to die" movement as well as families suffering from suicide.

Truthfully, this space is much too confining when given the task of filling in the details of someone so generous. For more, you may wish to Google "Ralph Mero Unitarian" and go through the many page results there. However, I suggest you take Ralph out to lunch to learn more. You'll find that far more enriching.

– Rick London

FINANCIALLY YOURS

Seems like only yesterday that we began our congregation year, and here we are having completed three quarters of it. Heading into our last quarter our finances for this year are in good shape. For 75% of the year, we have realized 82.5% of our budgeted income and spent only 70.5% of our budgeted expenses. This is very similar to our experience last year, when, by the end of the year, we ran a higher surplus than we anticipated – our so called "carry-over." If we do as well this year, it will greatly help the funding of our 2013-2014 budget.

One way to ensure that this happens is to complete this year's pledge and to make a pledge for next year. In June the Income Treasurer will send out reminders to encourage everyone to complete this year's pledge, but you need not wait for the invitation. Please start now to avoid a last minute large contribution. As for our current stewardship campaign, so far we have received 57 pledges for a total of \$126,843. That's 57% of last year's total of all pledges plus \$8,050 in gifts. It's a good start, but we need at least \$90,000 more to be able to fund a reasonable 2013-2014 budget. Please let us hear from the rest of you to confirm your financial support. We'd like to assume that those of you who have not responded plan to continue your current pledge into next year, but it would make us sleep a lot better if we had your confirmation.

Another bright spot in our finances was the recent Flea Market chaired by Keith and Barbara Dallara. I'm happy to report that the Flea Market took in \$957. It was a lot of work, but well worth it. We engaged the local community, developed a great team of volunteers, and had fun. Well done, Keith and Barbara and volunteers!

If you have any questions about UCWC's finances please don't hesitate to talk to one of our treasurers, Janine Galen, Tom Townsend, and me, Mike Miller. And thanks for your interest.

STONES IN THE WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

Cleaning out closets? Raking up some fall leaves left behind? Weeding and buying mulch for the flower beds? Talking with neighbors who you haven't seen all winter? Yup, spring is here, and we are getting up and out and hopefully have found some new energy.

We hope that some of the social justice activities here at UCWC pique your interest. Maybe you are thinking about signing up for gleaning with Tom and Mary this summer or, perhaps, joining the Habitat for Humanity work day with Mike and the crew in Coatesville in May. Stay tuned for more Veggie Night Out dates to join other UU's for a meatless meal with John and the Animal Rights group. Good food and good company are an unbeatable combination.

If you want to become more engaged in social policy issues, think seriously of joining Tom Buglio and his committee focused on the prevention of gun violence and participating in the coming Philly Suburbs Speak out at Villanova on May 11. Interest is developing through UUPLAN to focus on justice for food service workers who can work in dangerous and unhealthy working conditions; our members will be exploring the new book, *Behind the Kitchen Door*, and perhaps you would like to be part of that dialogue.

Our Embracing Diversity team has recently hosted the Playback Theatre group and is continuing to plan for activities that focus on racial diversity and immigration issues

Stay tuned. There is much more to come. Our committee hopes that you will find some activities that you want to be part of. Join us.

– Carol Dukes

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION PROJECT

THIS MONTH'S SUGGESTED ITEMS:

CONDIMENTS (MUSTARD, KETCHUP, PICKLES ETC.)

Our monthly food collection is Sunday, May 5. Look for collection baskets in the lobby. We participate in the "Circle of Giving" program that assures the West Chester Food Cupboard of specific items on any given month according to a schedule provided by the food cupboard. For this month's needs, see above headline – of course, other items are appreciated as well. Please be sure that the date on food items has not expired.



We encourage members to bring in items the first Sunday of each month, but if you forget, we will accept non-perishables at any time. You can also put a check in the collection plate, payable to "UCWC" with "WC Food Cupboard" in the memo line on any Sunday.

Thank you for participating in this project and helping neighbors in our community. Contact Shelly Case at email: food-cupboard.

REESTABLISHING PEACEFUL COMMUNITIES IN UGANDA

Here is an update from UUSC about their work in Uganda that I spoke about at the Sunday services kicking off the UUSC Guest At Your Table campaign last year:

UUSC has completed an outside evaluation of our five years of work in Uganda that began in 2008, helping to bring displaced people back to their villages after the terrible war led by Joseph Kony of the Lord's Resistance Army, which decimated the Acholi people and destroyed communities and families.

In 2008, the displaced were in squalid camps but too scared and reluctant to return to their destroyed homes. UUSC began to work with local partner organization Caritas and collectively over 20,000 people returned home as a result of our efforts. All the Acholi are now back home, and UUSC is currently working on conflict resolution in 50 villages.

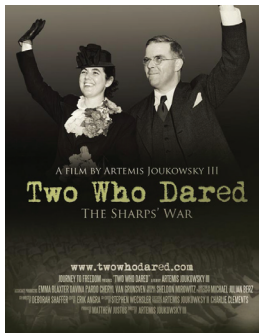
Many more villages have requested that we extend the program to their communities, but instead we have encouraged the leadership from the 50 villages we work in to train leaders in the surrounding villages, underscoring that people's answers lie within themselves. The evaluation was highly favorable, emphasizing that people found the project helpful, responsive, effective, and handled respectfully – core values of UUSC's program work.

– Linda Sander, UUSC Local Representative

EMBRACING DIVERISTY TEAM

On April 6, the Embracing Diversity Team hosted "Playback Theatre" at UCWC, as a new way to begin to share our stories, and learn to know each other better. Attendees graciously shared their stories, which were then briefly enacted by the Playback actors. The result was amazingly touching and heartwarming, sometimes funny, sometimes painful, often poignant. The actors were masters at improvisation and amazed us at their ability to get right to the heart of a story and bring it alive on the stage.

We hope to use this type of storytelling as a way to share both our own stories and the stories of others with different viewpoints, cultures and experiences. Thanks to all who attended and participated. If you couldn't be there, don't despair. Watch for another Playback event in the fall.



**TWO WHO DARED:
THE SHARPS' WAR**
SATURDAY, MAY 4, 7 P.M.
IN THE SANCTUARY
**FREE WILL DONATION REQUESTED TO
SUPPORT THE TWO WHO DARED PROJECT**

Through the inspiring true story of Waitstill and Martha Sharp, *Two Who Dared: The Sharps' War* reveals a timeless lesson of personal sacrifice and courage to be shared with future generations.

After seventeen ministers declined the Unitarian Association's request for relief volunteers in Europe, Waitstill and Martha were the eighteenth call. When they committed to the dangerous undertaking they left their two young children in the care of their congregation in Wellesley, Massachusetts and traveled to Czechoslovakia at the onset of WWII. In order to enable the clandestine transportation of refugees, they battled political and social blockades, broke laws to get imperiled individuals exit visas, and laundered money on the black market. Over the course of two missions: in Prague (1939), and in Southern France (1940), the Sharps, and their underground confederates, played a vital role in saving thousands from persecution.

The documentary film is told from the point of view of the Sharps, drawing on their recorded interviews, letters and unpublished memoirs, and includes interviews with rescued children and noted Holocaust scholars. It won the Amsterdam Film Festival Special Jury Prize (2012) and the Redemptive Film Festival Redemptive Storyteller Award (2012), and it was an Official Selection at the Boston International Film Festival (2013) and River's Edge Film Festival (2012).

Click [here](#) to view our flyer.

A GLEANING GARDEN OF OUR OWN

May is here again, and we have begun plans for this year's gleaning project. We will be growing sweet potatoes again in our Westtown garden, but we are branching out to grow some broccoli, Swiss chard, lettuce, edamame, and beets.

Through our partnership with the Chester County Food Bank, we are going to work with the Church of the Loving Shepherd (CLS) to provide fresh produce to families in need. For years, CLS has been delivering food every other Monday to 40 Chester County families in need of assistance. Starting May 25 and continuing every Saturday from 4:00-6:30 p.m. through the end of September, we will plant, mulch, weed, and/or harvest. Sundays will be our rain dates. Any food not used by CLS will be donated to the Chester County Food Bank. CLS has volunteered to help in the garden as well as deliver the food.



In our first gleaning year, 2010, we harvested over 1,200 pounds of sweet potatoes. Last year we raised nearly 100 pounds of edamame. We invite you to come this year and get your hands dirty raising fresh, nutritious food for those in need. Some of the gardening is particularly hard work – preparing the ground in May and digging the roots in the fall requires a healthy back. Planting and weeding is much less strenuous. Please keep your abilities in mind when you come to help.

At the end of each summer month, we will have a bonfire and weenie roast (marshmallows too!) to celebrate our efforts (weather permitting). Our first major planting and bonfire is May 25.

This will be fun and fulfilling work for us as we help our neighbors in need. If you want to be on our email list please contact us at email: [gleaning](#), so that you can get any messages such as cancellations due to the weather and reminders.

**UUSC, ROC AND THE
UCWC
PATRONIZING
RESTAURANTS
THAT TREAT
THEIR WORKERS FAIRLY**

On April 14 our service highlighted the book *Behind the Kitchen Door*, a book being promoted by our UU Service Committee. The book tells the story of the beginnings of ROC, the Restaurant Opportunities Center, advocates for fair working conditions in the restaurant industry.

ROC has a Diner's Guide to Ethical Eating that tells us what of the major chains and local (in several cities including Philadelphia) restaurants do treat their workers well.

There was great enthusiasm at the service for doing research to find restaurants in



Chester County that may meet their criteria. We would all like to be able to patronize restaurants that pay a decent wage, offer paid sick days to employees, and promote from within.

We have begun a conversation with ROC Philly to get their guidance in this project and have been told there are other UU congregations who also want to join in the effort.

For the first steps, we recommend buying the book (which we will have for sale) and checking out ROC (<http://rocunited.org>) as well as the UUSC (www.uusc.org/cc/restaurants) information about it.

When we have more specifics to guide you we will post them in *Connections* and on our web site. We want to do this right, because we hope our effort will truly make a difference in the lives of those who prepare and serve us meals in our local restaurants. Stay Tuned.

EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP FRIDAY, MAY 17...PLEASE SEE DETAILS BELOW*

The Imperial Woman By Pearl S. Buck is the fictionalized biography of the last Empress of China, Ci-xi, who began as a concubine of the Xianfeng Emperor and on his death became the de facto head of the Qing Dynasty until her death in 1908. Buck vividly recreates her life as ruler during one of the most turbulent times in China's past.

Debby Kern will lead our discussion. For more information contact us at email: diversity-book-group, or call Ruth MacFadyen or Shelly Case.

*We'll meet at the Pearl S. Buck Homestead, 520 Dublin Rd., Perkasio, Pennsylvania, on May 17 at 11 a.m. for a private tour with Debby's friend, Nancy McElwee. Admission is \$8, cash please. Then we'll go out for a bite to eat and book discussion afterwards. Let's try to carpool since it's about an hour away. Please email Debby to let her know you're coming. Thanks. All are Welcome.

A YOUTH EMPOWERING AND SUPPORTIVE CONGREGATION

That is what the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester is – a Youth Empowering and Supportive Congregation. A decade ago, we were awarded our first YES award. And ten years later, on April 13, 2013, we were awarded our tenth consecutive YES award. What an accomplishment! It speaks volumes toward the consistency and commitment that we, as a congregation, have toward our youth. It speaks to the creation of a safe and nurturing environment. And it speaks to ensuring they have an environment in which they can grow, learn and have "FUUN".



GAME NIGHT

This month Game Night will be held on Friday, May 3. It starts with a potluck dinner; then we break into groups to play the games. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and we start games a little after 7. If you are late, you can join the game or start a new one. We are usually done between 8:30 and 9:45.

It is a great way to end the work week and start the weekend. Don't worry about dinner. Bring a dish and a beverage (for example a 2-liter bottle of soda or a half-gallon of milk) to share as well as any game you would like to play. If you don't have time to cook, pick up a pizza or cookies on the way. (Everybody loves pizza/chocolate chip cookies.)

Please don't think that this is just for kids, because everyone is welcome. Come by yourself, bring a friend, or bring your whole family. There is no need to RSVP, but if you have any questions, contact Lauren Kelly at email: fun.

SHARE-THE-PLATE GENEROSITY

The Social Justice Committee's Share-the-Plate program raises money to give to local non-profit organizations who are trying to improve life for Chester County residents. We are pleased to announce the share-the-plate recipient for May 19 (third Sunday of the month) is **The West Chester Food Cupboard**. Their motto, "Neighbors Caring for Neighbors", reflects their work as an all-volunteer organization that is fighting hunger in West Chester. Your contributions will be used to buy the food that is most needed.

WANTED

Are you looking for a challenge? Are you really looking for a challenge? Are you able to volunteer your talents and enthusiasm on a part-time basis (very part-time)? Do stories of children and families in distress pull at your heartstrings? What if that stress is the threat of deportation?

Maybe serving as a UUPLAN Immigration Issue Team member is what you are looking for. Please contact Carol Dukes (email: social-justice) for more information.

BEADING/ NEEDLEWORK/ SCRAPBOOKING/ CRAFTING PARTY

We had so much fun at last month's Crafting Party that we thought we should do this again. BYO supplies and tools, but we're sure we'll end up trading ideas and goodies from our caches.



Come join us on Saturday, May 18, from 10:00 a.m. till noon at UCWC. RSVP to email: fun or tell Cindy Heck or Debby Kern. Let us know if you can help us set up tables at 9:30 a.m. – Thanks.

CONGREGATIONAL CALENDAR

All email addresses @ucwc.org unless otherwise noted.

- May 1 Wed Religious Education Committee.** 6 p.m. Fireplace Rm. Contact Heidi Frayer, email: RE
- May 3 Fri Potluck and Game Night.** Doors open at 6:30 p.m. . Games start a little after 7 p.m. Sanctuary. Contact Lauren Kelly, email: fun. See p. 7
- May 4 Sat Film Screening of *Two Who Dared: The Sharps' War*.** 7 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 6.
- May 5 Sun First Sunday Food Collection.** Lobby. See p. 5.
- May 6 Mon Embracing Diversity Team.** 7-8:30 p.m. Office. Contact Eileen Kelly-Meyer, email: embracing-diversity. See p. 5.
- May 11 Sat Town Meeting.** 9 a.m. Sanctuary. See p. 3.
Habitat for Humanity Work Day. Contact Mike Stevens, email: habitat.
- May 12 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
- May 14 Tue Council Meeting.** 7-9 p.m. Office. Contact Cindy Heck, e-mail: program
- May 15 Wed Committee Annual Reports Due.** See. p. 3.
- May 17 Fri Exploring Diversity Book Group.** Special time and place: 11 a.m. Offsite. See p. 7.
- May 18 Sat Beading/Needlework/Scrapbooking Crafter's Party.** 10 a.m. Sanctuary. See p. 7.
Coffee House. 7 p.m. Sanctuary.
- May 19 Sun Share-the-Plate Sunday.** Benefits the West Chester Food Cupboard. See p. 7.
Spirit Singers Perform. Single Sunday Service 10 a.m.
- May 21 Tue Board Meeting.** 7 p.m. Office. All are welcome. Contact Mary Yeager, e-mail: president.
- May 23 Thu Religious Services Committee.** 7 p.m. Minister's Office. Contact Gerry Giess, email: religious-services
- May 24 Fri Lunch Group.** 11:30 a.m. Panera Bread. See below.
- May 25 Sat Gleaning - Planting and Bon Fire.** Offsite. Contact Tom Townsend, email: gleaning. See p. 6.
- May 27 Mon Memorial Day.** Office closed.
- Jun 1 Sat Folk Singing.** 8 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Sander.

Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

- Spirit Singers Practices.** 7:15-9:15 p.m. Sanctuary. Thursdays, May 2, 9, and 16. Contact Miriam Davidson, email: choir
- Youth Group Meets most Sundays, 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.** Youth Group Room. Email: youth-group.

LUNCH GROUP

Lunch group will meet Friday, May 24, at 11:30 a.m. at Panera Bread, 1103 West Chester Pike, near Shop Rite. Newcomers are welcome. To be added to the email 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 email, or you change your mind at the last minute, come anyway. Everyone is welcome.

SUUSI THIS SUMMER

Looking for a great, affordable value for your whole family with lots of adventures and filled with friends? Then come to SUUSI – July 21-27, in Radford, Virginia. You'll be warmly welcomed and invited into our community.

The Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (SUUSI) is an intentional community of approximately 1,200 people who gather in the third week of July near Roanoke to explore our interconnectedness, learn new ways of seeing our world and each other, delight in the joys of meeting old friends and making new ones, share outdoor adventures, dance, and sing.

Together, we'll create a week of conversation, reflection, activity, nourishment, fun, and family. "Let It Be A Dance" is this year's theme. For more information and to register go to www.suusi.org.