

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 November, 2013

November 3 at 10 a.m.

STUNG BY BEES

Greg Pelley

Sometimes life is rather unpleasant. Stuff happens to us that causes us pain or discomfort. In those moments, we often are searching for answers, "Why is this happening to me?" Perhaps, though, there is another question we can ask in difficult times and situations—a question that opens our hearts to deepening our relationships. **NOTE: Daylight Savings Time ends...turn your clocks back one hour.**

November 10 at 10 a.m

CHUTZPAH AND HUBRIS

Rev. Peter Friedrichs

As a religion that welcomes a diversity of people holding a variety of beliefs, our Unitarian Universalist congregations place a high value on being a place where almost anyone can find a home. How well do we live out this principle of hospitality? How open are we to differing points of view, and what challenges do we face in practicing what we preach? Rev. Peter Friedrichs, pastor of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County in Media, offers his thoughts on the topic.

November 17 at 10 a.m

WHO ARE WE?

Rev. D. Michael Smith

Our "Purposes" statement introduces/identifies the sources that make up Unitarian Universalists. Rev. Smith, by request, begins with this statement that will introduce a series of sermons focusing on our Seven Principles – our non-creedal creed.

November 24 at 10 a.m

**THANKSGIVING BREAD COMMUNION
AN INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE**

**Rev. Deborah
and Pam Baxter**

This is our annual celebration of our heritage where we break bread together on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Everyone is invited to bring some kind of bread representing either your immigrant roots or in some way telling your story. We will have separate accommodations for the gluten-free among us. This is a multi-generational service with the Spirit Singers joining in.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Marie Steele has accepted the position of Board Secretary. She will take on the organizational duties of the position while Rick London will take minutes during the board meetings. The Board also welcomes Fatima Patel as a trustee. She has volunteered to fill the empty board seat and will stay on the Board through June, 2014.

The Board thanks the Committee on Ministry for their informative Sunday service and for leading the congregation in the first Town Hall Meeting of the year. We appreciate the thoughts and ideas that were shared there, and we are beginning to plan our second Town Hall meeting. Our tentative date is December 1 and will again be at 12 noon after our Sunday service. The Board will discuss what topic/s should be addressed at the next meeting. If you have thoughts or suggestions, please contact email: board, and let us know your thoughts.

The interim will help us identify what we as a congregation value...

There are many of you who have asked questions about the process of finding a new minister after Reverend Deborah Mero retires in the spring. Our plan is to have an interim minister for one year, starting fall of 2014. The goal of the interim is multifaceted. The interim minister will help the congregation explore our strengths as well as our weakness. The interim will help us identify what we as a congregation value, what we want for our future, what we should be asking of ourselves, and how to best prepare ourselves for welcoming a new minister.

We, the congregation, need to take an honest look at ourselves, do some introspection, have many conversations, and then create some congregational goals, so that we can begin a relationship with a new minister with open and welcoming hearts and minds. The interim year will lay the foundations for our settled ministry.

The By-laws specify that the Board choose the interim ministry search team. There are usually three or four members of that team, and the application process must be completed by April, 2014. Feel free to contact me at email: president, if you have more specific questions. The UUA has this process outlined in detail at www.uua.org/careers/ministers/interim/.

— Shelly Case

REPORT ON TOWN HALL MEETING

On Sunday, September 29, we had a town hall meeting at UCWC after the 10 a.m. service. 56 inquisitive members and friends of the congregation stayed to hear presentations by Paul Heck and Mike Werner from the COM committee (Committee on Ministry) and to ask questions of them and make comments.

Paul Heck started the presentation. His topics included how the COM works, the importance of confidentiality of members input to the COM, how the minister is reviewed, and what to expect in the search process.

We had input from members of a few months standing to 30+ years. New members observed that it is difficult to find information about the process and what UCWC is doing right now. Long-term members recalled that we have been through all this before and survived. It was noted that ministers of UU congregations serve an average of six to seven years.

Mike Werner reminded us that we have a unique opportunity provided by the very long notice of Deborah's retirement. Many suggestions were made about how to move the process forward. You will note that a survey form has appeared in the last two orders of service. As part of the process it is vitally important that all the congregants make known what kind of minister they want. Remember: the minister's job takes place not only during Sunday services but every day of the week as well.

It was also noted that any minister will be a "mere mortal", not able to fulfill the wishes of every member. We, the members of UCWC, must decide what strengths we want, and what weaknesses can live with.

The Board has set December 1, after the service, as the next town hall meeting date. The topic is not yet known. What *is* known is that, if you want your voice to be heard, you have to be there.

— Hugh Sutherland, Trustee and Vice President

THANK YOU AUCTION COMMITTEE

The hard work of many people makes our auction a fantastic event each year. Look for a report on the financial outcome of the auction in next month's *Fellowtarian*. Meanwhile, I want to send a huge thanks to the members of the auction committee and the many people who help each of these people.

Dan Meyer.....Auction Donations and Book
Sheila GrantBusiness Solicitations
Kathy McGinnis Appetizers and Dinner
Diane CohleDecorations
Rob Sartain,Beverages
Kim Ellerthorpe Raffles
Steve SanderComputer Software
Craig Talbot.....Computer Operations
Mike Miller Auctioneer
Ed Cohle..... Auctioneer
Judy Perri..... Entertainment

— Nancy Artus, Chair



REMARKS: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

*Your children are not your children...
 You may give them your love but not your thoughts...
 You may house their bodies but not their souls...
 — Kahlil Gibran, "On Children"*

As a Unitarian Universalist DRE, I have come to love these words, because they give voice to what our main goal is in religious education of our children and youth—to open their hearts and minds and guide them on a path of spiritual exploration; where they can make their own meaning of the mystery of being alive on this planet. In my 12 years as a DRE, I haven't come across an RE model that does this as well as Spirit Play, which is a model based on Montessori educational principles.

The idea, is to provide the nurturing environment a fledgling spirit needs to grow and develop.

While Maria Montessori's educational methodology is well-known, fewer people know that she was also concerned with children's development of spirit. She believed that children come into the world with an inherent sense of spirit, and that most traditional religion pretty much drums it out of them. The idea, then, is to provide the nurturing environment a fledgling spirit needs to grow and develop.

And so, the Spirit Play Center isn't just another classroom. Here, we "have all the time we need." Here, we speak softly, because someone might be speaking with the Spirit, and we don't want to disturb them.

The core of the model is presenting selected stories, in a special way, and then—through open-ended Wondering Questions and opportunity for an Art Response—children are invited to make their own meaning of what they've heard. The stories are carefully selected, and pull from all of our six UU Sources:

- Direct experience of transcending mystery and wonder
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men
- Wisdom from the world's religions
- Jewish and Christian teachings
- Humanist teachings
- Spiritual teachings of earth-based traditions and also from our own Unitarian Universalist faith

Thanks, in part, to the Spirit Play classrooms I visited while on my sabbatical this past spring, we now have Spirit Play up and running for our children in Pre-K through second grade. It is great to have started.

If you would like to observe our Spirit Play class on a Sunday morning, please contact me.

— Pam Baxter
 Director of Religious Education

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

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 Pam Baxter, Director of Religious Ed email: dre
 Steve and Linda Sander, Editors email: fellowtarian

WORK PARTY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

9 A.M. - 1 P.M.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

PAINT FRONT PORCH,
 WINTERIZE WINDOWS,
 LEAF RAKING, AND MORE



AUCTION THANKS TO BUSINESSES

Please patronize and thank the following businesses and non-profits that contributed to our auction.

- Agway
- Brandywine River Museum
- Brother's Pizza (Bradford Plaza)
- Chanticleer Gardens
- Delaware Theatre Company
- Desmond Hotel
- Great Pumpkin
- Kennett Square Golf & Country Club
- Marchwood True Value Hardware
- North Star Orchards
- Peace of Pizza
- People's Light & Theatre
- Philadelphia Museum of Art
- Soaring Adventures of America
- Taylor Music Store
- Ten Thousand Villages
- Time To Leap Dance Studio
- Turks Head Yoga
- Wilmington Blue Rocks
- Winterthur Museum
- YMCA, West Chester

STONES IN THE WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

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

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION PROJECT THIS MONTH'S SUGGESTED ITEM: DRIED BEANS

Our [monthly food collection](#) is Sunday, November 3. 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 the above headline; of course, other items are appreciated as well. Please be sure that food items have not passed their expiration date. The food cupboard accepts paper items, such as paper towels and toilet paper, in addition to food items.

We encourage members to bring in items the first Sunday of each month, but we will happily 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 Kimberly Ellerthorpe at [email: food-cupboard](mailto:food-cupboard).



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 November 17 (third Sunday of the month) is Open Hearth.

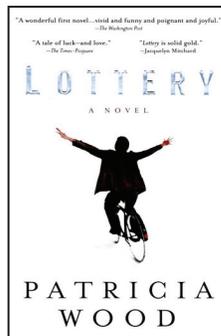
This small organization based in Spring City provides innovative programs to help people end the cycle of homelessness and achieve financial self-sufficiency. Open Hearth supports and empowers people as they acquire affordable housing, a means of transportation and teaches valuable saving habits, offering a cash savings match. They are also addressing the need for more accessible housing for people with physical disabilities. The organization is often used by Habitat for Humanity in Chester County to prepare homeowners by giving them the skills to manage their new home.

EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK CLUB

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10
7 PM

Lottery by Patricia Wood.

Perry's IQ is only 76, but he's not stupid. His grandmother taught him everything he needs to know to survive. She taught him to write things down so he won't forget them. She taught him to play the lottery every week. And, she taught him whom to



trust. When Gram dies, Perry is left orphaned and bereft at 31. Then his weekly Washington State Lottery ticket is the jackpot winner. Perry is left to navigate his new world by following the lessons from his beloved Gram.

Fred Frayer will lead this month's discussion along with the author, Patricia Wood, who will join in the discussion via Skype. This month the group will be meeting at Leslie Barr's house instead of its usual meeting place in the office at our building. For more information, contact us at [email: diversity-book-group](mailto:diversity-book-group).



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

The next [Habitat for Humanity](#) volunteer work day for UCWC is Saturday, November 2, from 8:30 to 3:30 in Coatesville. No matter what skills you have, they can be used to help build housing for people in need. Contact Mike Stevens at [email: habitat](mailto:habitat) to ask questions, volunteer your time, or to be placed on their e-mail list.

FOLK SINGING

The next [folk singing](#) get-together is Saturday, November 16, at 8 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. All are welcome.

No singing talent or experience is necessary, just a desire to have fun. Capable musicians should bring instruments.

Bring a munchie, if you wish. Maps are in the foyer. Contact Steve at [email: folk-singing](mailto:folk-singing).



NOW MUSIC SOCIETY CONCERT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT
3 PM

AN OFF-CAMPUS
CONCERT FEATURING
MUSIC BY WEST CHESTER
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND
OTHER CONTEMPORARY
COMPOSERS.

Performed entirely by current WCU students, these composers strive to create their music in new and innovative ways, exploring their imagination and holding the audiences' fascination. Expect a varied program: songs, solo piano, chamber ensembles, and choral music.

This community event is open to all. Donations gratefully accepted at the door for UCWC and the WCU NOW Music Society. Questions should be directed to Marie Steel ([email: music](mailto:music)) or Alex Marthaler ([email: pianist](mailto:pianist)).

INVITATION TO NEWCOMERS PATH TO MEMBERSHIP FALL SESSIONS

If you've attended UCWC and like what you experienced with us, we invite you to join in on our three-part session. Classes are conveniently held on Sundays following our service. If you have been attending and are contemplating becoming a member at UCWC, the upcoming Path to Membership classes will clearly define for you what this means. All are welcome to attend.

Those who are ready to sign the book are invited to do so at the final class or at a Signing Sunday the first Sunday in December. There will be a New Member Dinner Celebration, hosted by the Membership Committee, the last Sunday in January.

There are three sessions:

Nov 3	11:15 - 12:30	History of Unitarian Universalism practices and philosophy.
Nov 10	11:15 - 12:30	Our faith community and what it can mean and bring to you.
Nov 17	11:15 t- 12:30	Exploring Membership and what it will mean to you, UCWC, and the larger Unitarian Universalist organization.

Please RSVP to Barbara Long at [email: membership](mailto:membership). We look forward to getting to know each other.

IT'S HOLIDAY PARTY TIME A FAVORITE TIME OF YEAR

Please consider hosting. If your answer is yes to the below questions, then call or email Barbara Long.

- Do you enjoy your holiday decorations (decorations are not a prerequisite)?
- Do you like to have friends over during the holidays?

It is a tradition at UCWC to gather during December at each other's home with good cheer for the season. The hosts provide their home, the beverages, and one dish. The guests bring finger foods, and the Fun and Fellowship Committee coordinates it with announcements and directions. Friday, December 13, is set aside for a UCWC in-house party.

It is a delightful start to the season.

Please contact Barbara Long at [email: holiday-parties](mailto:holiday-parties) with any questions. Let her know by November 19, so that we can announce dates in the December *Fellowtarian*. We're Looking forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the parties.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 3

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour.



COFFEE HOUSE

Been to the Coffee House lately? Perhaps you can join us Saturday evening, November 9, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.



The featured act will include Ed Richey, repeat coffee house performer, along with 'a little help from his friends' in an acoustic band called TTR (Ticket to Ride). This is an all-Beatles band; they are sure to play some of your favorites to listen to and sing along with. *A splendid time is guaranteed for all.*

If you're a performer, sign-up for the open mike begins at 6:30.

Refreshments are available; donations are encouraged to help with expenses and to thank our featured acts each month—and this is a fund-raiser for UCWC. Contact [email: music@ucwc.org](mailto:music@ucwc.org) or <http://ucwc.org>.

KIYA HEARTWOOD CONCERT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10 7 PM

TICKETS: \$10 AT THE DOOR OR FROM MARIE STEEL, EMAIL: MUSIC

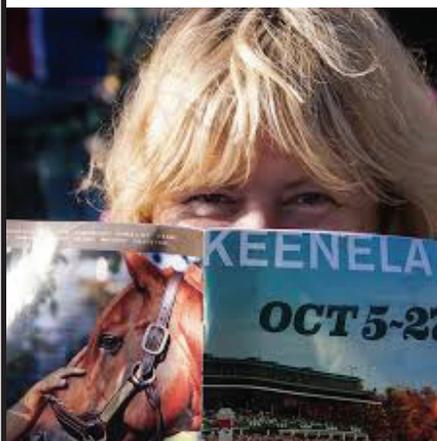
Award winning, Austin based singer songwriter Kiya Heartwood delivers, "soulful confessions, political broadside and a wicked groove."

This concert features special guest multi-instrumentalist, Miriam Davidson. Heartwood and Davidson are also known as the folk duo, Wishing Chair. Formed in 1995, Wishing Chair has toured across the country, recorded eight CD's and garnered countless awards. Together, Kiya and Miriam have been favorite performers at venues and UU congregations across the country.

Miriam is also our choir director here at UCWC. Heartwood is the former lead singer and songwriter for the Arista rock band Stealin Horses and is currently touring her latest acoustic solo CD, The Living Tree.

If you missed them first time around, now is your chance. A portion of the proceeds will benefit UCWC.

Kiya Heartwood in Concert with Special Guest Miriam Davidson



Sunday, Nov. 10th
7 pm
Unitarian
Congregation
of West Chester



Miriam Davidson

Tickets: \$10, available from Marie Steel, advance tickets: music@ucwc.org or at the door.

CONGREGATIONAL CALENDAR

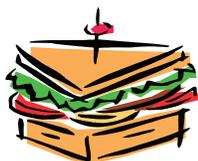
All email addresses @ucwc.org unless otherwise noted.

- Nov 1 Fri** **Lunch Group.** 11:30 a.m. Panera Bread. See below.
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.
- Nov 2 Sat** **Habitat for Humanity Work Day.** 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Coatesville. See p. 4.
Congregation Work Party. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. See p. 3,
- Nov 3 Sun** **Daylight Savings Time Ends.** Turn your clocks back one hour.
First Sunday Food Collection. Lobby. See p. 4.
Path to Membership Class. Session 1. 11:15 a.m. -12:30 p.m. See p 5.
- Nov 8 Fri** **Movie Night. Showing *Peaceable Kingdom*.** Sponsored by the Animal Ministry Chapter. 7 p.m. Sanctuary.
- Nov 9 Sat** **UUnity Coffee House.** 7-9:30 p.m. Sanctuary. Contact Judy Perry, email: coffee-house. See p. 6
- Nov 10 Sun** **Path to Membership Class.** Session 2. 11:15 a.m. -12:30 p.m. See p 5.
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. Meeting at Leslie Barr's home. See p. 4.
Kiya Heartwood Concert. 7 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 6.
- Nov 12 Tue** **Program Council Meeting.** 7-9 p.m. Office. Email: program
- Nov 13 Wed** **Animal Ministry.** 7 p.m. Contact John Gribbin. Email: animal-ministry
- Nov 16 Sat** **Crafters Party.** 10 a.m. to noon. Contact Debby Kern. Email: fun
Folk Singing. 8 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. See p. 5.
- Nov 17 Sun** **Path to Membership Class.** Session 3. 11:15 a.m. -12:30 p.m. See p 5.
Share the Plate Sunday. Benefits Open Hearth. See p. 4.
Now Music Society. 3 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 5.
- Nov 19 Tue** **Board Meeting.** 7 p.m. Office. All are welcome. Contact Shelly Case, e-mail: president.
- Nov 24 Sun** **Spirit Singers Perform.**

Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

- Spirit Singers** Practices 7:15-9:15 p.m. Sanctuary. Thursdays, November 7 ,14, and 21 Contact Miriam Davidson, email: choir
- Youth Group** Meets most Sundays. James Reeb Rm. Times to be determined. Email: youth-group.

LUNCH GROUP



[Lunch Group](#) will meet Friday, November 1, 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](mailto: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.

