

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.*

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

501 South High Street
West Chester, PA 19382

Web: www.ucwc.org

All email addresses @ucwc.org

Rev. Deborah Mero, Minister 610-692-4043 email: [minister](mailto:minister@ucwc.org)
Stephen Foery, Office Administrator 610-692-5966 email: [office](mailto:office@ucwc.org)
Shelly Case, President email: [president](mailto:president@ucwc.org)
Pam Baxter, Director of Religious Ed email: [dre](mailto:dre@ucwc.org)
Steve and Linda Sander, Editors email: [fellowtarian](mailto:fellowtarian@ucwc.org)

SUNDAY SERVICES **July, 2014**

July 6 at 10 a.m.

**TO AFFIRM AND PROMOTE THE
INHERENT WORTH AND DIGNITY OF EVERY BEING**

John Gribbin

The First Principle Project is an effort within our denomination to change the wording of our first principle from, "the inherent worth and dignity of every person," to, "the inherent worth and dignity of every being". John Gribbin, from our Animal Ministry Chapter, will explain the purpose and importance of this project.

July 13 at 10 a.m.

WRITING IS MAGIC

Brett Goldman

Looking to increase your self-awareness, confidence or spirituality? Navigate life's peaks and valleys? Be more expressive? Writing—feared by some, embraced by others—is a powerful tool we all possess. Whether writing a story, a business letter, or even a shopping list, the results offer us a glimpse inside, a bright, honest light with which to see our whole true selves. Come with an open mind and a blank slate. Don't worry! You will not be graded.

July 20 at 10 a.m.

AND WHILE WE ARE SPEAKING OF DEATH...

Michael Werner

No one gets out alive. There is no bargaining, and no deals to be made. Death is an inevitable fact of our lives. Sometimes we plan well; other times, things intervene, like those Mongol horde invasions of Eastern Europe or the equally unexpected Spanish Flu. The consequences to you are the same. But what are the consequences to those who remain? In this service, we will explore how this unique UU approach to life can influence and inform how we plan and speak of death.

July 27 at 10 a.m.

COMMUNITY

Deanna Gabe

Details TBA.

Services and Babysitting at 10 a.m.

THE LAST SONG OF DEBORAH

Thank you all so much for the lovely sendoff on June 15. It was a wonderful day complete with beautiful flowers, a fabulous memory book with so many thoughts contributed by so many wonderful people.

Thank you again and again for the last seven years. We certainly have done a lot together, not the least of which was get through the worst of the recession. We have enlarged our footprint in the community. We have welcomed new people and new babies into the congregation together and said good-bye to those who have left us or have left this world. We have stood up for just causes and expanded the issues over which we have taken action. You have worked hard and given much to this congregation and the community.

I leave you with the words that some of you have heard from me many times, words that convinced me that Unitarian Universalism was the faith in which I was going to travel my spiritual journey, words by the late Rev. Raymond J. Baughan. They have informed my life and my ministry and. I hope, set forth the task ahead of you as a Unitarian Universalist Congregation:

*One aspect of religion is its search for something in which we can trust. **A church is an intentional community concerned with religion.***

Most of us are battlegrounds of longing and fear. There are churches which play to our uncertainty. They expect us to accept what they say as true and right, and tell us we no longer need to think or choose. They appeal to our fears and give us spurious answers which reinforce our helplessness and deaden our capacity to be responsible for our own decisions.

Those who live in fear defend themselves against life. They live inside an armor. Those who trust, interact with the world, reach out, challenge bad traditions, and listen to their own deep inner voice.

The task of a church is to liberate us from fear, to enable us to grow as persons, and to explore our relationships with others and with the universe.

The task of a church is to reach us at those points where we seek a deepened quality in our lives, where we are asking fundamental questions about ourselves and the human situation.

The task of a church is to provide each of us with opportunities to be clear about the fears, desires, and values back of our decisions.

The task of a church is to be a warm and caring community where that can happen.

Freedom arrives when we do not have to control life...and the heart of religion is freedom.

I wish for you a path that opens doors to strangers looking not just for friends, but for a place where their spiritual journey is welcomed and encouraged. I wish for you dedication to the work of justice making—there is so much injustice all around us. And I wish for you that each of you finds your way to be a blessing to the world. Therein lies true happiness.

With much love,
Deborah

p.s. If you want some amazing inspiration about how one UU can make a difference and be a blessing to the world, I highly recommend the film "Bidder 70" now streaming on Netflix.

*I wish for you
that each of you
finds your way
to be a blessing
to the world.
Therein lies true
happiness.*

NEW LEADERSHIP

Our Board welcomes both new and continuing leadership. Joshua Sweet and David Werner have joined the Board as trustees. Rick London has volunteered to continue on the board for another two years and will act as secretary. Please offer thanks to Hugh Sutherland for his fine work as Vice-President and to Fatima Patel for filling the empty seat on our Board.

The Board would also like to acknowledge the hard work of our Nominating Committee: Diane Cohle, Jon McCormick and Pam Sapko. Pam will continue to serve on this committee, and she will be joined by Curt Hoganson and Lorrie McKinley.

Cindy Heck has also earned our gratitude. She has led the Program Council by serving with creativity, perseverance and grace. Amanda Lipnack has accepted the leadership position for the Program Council and will sit on the executive team with Janine Galen and our interim minister Rev. Bill Zelezny.

Thanks to all for taking time away from your busy lives to help out.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

For those of you who did not attend the annual meeting, we have important information to share. I will offer an overview, but please read Finance Chair Janine Galen's article for details.

The membership attending the June 8 annual meeting passed a deficit budget. Yep, you read this correctly. The membership attending the June 8 annual meeting passed a deficit budget. Maybe, I should mention this again; the members that attended the June 8 annual meeting passed a deficit budget.

During the coming year... we must walk hand in hand.

Some folks have asked why we have such a large projected deficit this coming year. The primary reason is that pledges are down significantly when compared to prior years. Various reasons were offered. Some blamed our current "unsettled" position as we face a period between settled ministers. Some blamed the "merger", even though we have only begun the discussion. Some focus on the building problems, parking problems, or the recession. Those issues are all compelling.

With the revenue shortfall from reduced pledge income, the only other option to balance the budget was to cut expenses, the largest of which are salaries. Unfortunately, the cuts to staff salaries would adversely affect things we hold near and dear — music, religious education and office staff. Ironically, these cuts would limit our ability to attract and retain members, thus further eroding our financial base.

Meanwhile, the interim team followed the congregational directive to find a great interim minister. They found a candidate with exceptional experience that can help guide us through our unsettled times. Just as he will support us as a congregation, he must be supported financially.

The membership knowingly passed a deficit budget. The membership must now find a way to support our wants and needs. During this coming year, we cannot expect someone else to solve our financial problems. We must walk hand in hand.

— Shelly Case

MERGER TASK FORCE UPDATE

The UCWC-UUCDC Merger Task Force has completed three working meetings. The first meeting was held May 4 at UUCDC, the second on May 31 at UCWC, and the third on June 10 at UUCDC. The Merger Task Force continues to explore the fundamental question—whether the vision of a merger of the two congregations is in the best interest of our congregations and, if so, how to create a road map for success. The next meeting of the Merger Team Task Force is scheduled for July 9 in Media.

The three meetings to date have explored our respective goals and aspirations, and the strengths and weaknesses of each congregation.

The Merger Task Force has found a remarkable similarity between the goals and aspirations of the two congregations. We both want others to experience the joy and benefits associated with becoming an active member of our faith communities. We also share similar aspirations:

- More energized volunteers to do the work of the congregation
- Greater availability of existing leaders to take on other responsibilities
- Better use of existing funds to apply where needed
- Expanded growth in number of visitors and members
- Increased enthusiasm and energy among the membership
- Expanded impact in the local and wider community
- Opportunity for greater diversity in membership

We will convene meetings with the congregations during the summer to collect your insights on these aspirations and our respective strengths. The meetings will be announced through the *Fellowtarian*, *Connections*, on our website, through email distributions, and from the pulpit.

Task Force members are Michael Werner, Donna Harris, Janine Galen; Joe Miller, Diane Cohle, and Dan Alamia. Facilitation at each meeting has been provided by Mark Bernstein, the Growth Consultant for the Central East Regional Group of the UUA. Rev. Peter Friedrichs participates in the meetings as a consultant, resource and observer.

Please send any comments you may have to the UCWC Merger Team at email: merger.

CLUSTER NEWS

Cluster mission statement: "Grow our faith community, Strengthen our congregations, and Share our message"

Check out the new [Philly Cluster](#) banner. The cluster has had its first combined Social Justice Event. Over 30 UU's participated from the thirteen clusters at the Philly Pride Parade on June 7. We are so proud that we are living our UU principals by marching for LGBTQ rights.

Two of the most popular posters that were carried were "Separation of Church and Hate" and "Straight But Not Narrow".



REMARKS

IDEAS FOR AN ENRICHING UU SUMMER

Summer is here, and along with no school many parents opt for no church as well. How will you keep Unitarian Universalism alive for your children over the next 2½ months? Here are a few suggestions for encouraging children to live our UU values and deepen their experience of our faith. Maybe some of these are things you already do.

- Light a chalice on Sunday mornings, maybe at breakfast. Help maintain the rhythm of the church schedule. Deepen the experience with a reading—a poem, or something from the website of the Church of the Larger Fellowship (<http://www.clfuu.org>).
- Let your child be the one to pull out the Families Weave A Tapestry of Faith insert from the center of the UUA World magazine. Read the stories and do the activities as a family.
- Find chalice lightings/readings in the lovely little book, [Sunday and Every Day](#). Available at the UUA Bookstore (www.uuabookstore.org).
- For an extended family project, get a copy of *The ABC's for UU Newcomers*. You don't have to be a newcomer to benefit from the great ideas this book contains for living our UU principles. Written for adults, with a little creativity the book can easily be used with children, even if only portions of each letter page. For example, here's how the entry for letter F begins: F is for Friendly, the way we converse—without always judging who's better or worse. (Available used through Amazon.com or other booksellers.)
- Summer is also a great time to be out in Nature and celebrate our 7th Principle of respecting and caring for the Earth and its creatures, plants and resources. If you're not a nature nut, there are plenty of books that can help with ideas for fun things to do and learn out of doors.

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Most of all, enjoy your summer, and have fUUn!

—Pam Baxter

[Director of Religious Education](#)

RE-SPONSORED ICE CREAM SOCIALS

Don't forget that there are two ice cream socials remaining this summer—nothing fancy, just yummy ice cream with Fellowship friends. The kids always come up with some fun together.

Wednesday, July 23, at 7 p.m.

**Ice Cream at Chester Springs Creamery (Milky Way Farms)
Rte. 113 in Lionville.**

Thursday, August 21, at 7 p.m.

**Ice Cream at Northbrook Orchard
805 Unionville-Wawaset Road, West Chester.**



These events are open to anyone in the Fellowship, their families and friends. Contact Pam Baxter at email: [DRE](#).

ALEX'S FAREWELL

The Music Committee, the Board, and our entire UCWC congregation would like to express its thanks and appreciation to Alex Marthaler, our pianist for the last three years. He is leaving us to pursue his musical career and will be attending a graduate music program at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh in the fall.

While attending West Chester University and holding numerous part-time jobs, he has delighted us with his masterful piano playing and has brought us much spiritual enrichment through his musical gift. He has also been instrumental in introducing many alternative genres of music and a wide variety of musical pieces into our services for which we are very grateful. He introduced us to the WCU NOW Music Society and played and coordinated numerous community concerts at UCWC.

Alex will continue to play until August, so please be sure to wish him well in his new endeavor. He is an integral part of our community, and he will surely be missed.

BUILDING CARE

Adopt a Window. Help us preserve the outsides of our great windows. An individual or family may adopt a window on the south side of the building. This means to scrape, re-glaze, and paint the window — paint and glazing will be provided. (The three windows on the north side of the sanctuary have already been claimed). Please plan to complete painting by November. See the sign-up on the easel in the sanctuary or contact email: [building](#).

Work Days or Evenings. We hope to address several other building projects this summer via Saturday or evening work parties. Watch *Connections* for scheduling, or if you contact email: [building](#), you will receive notification of each work party.

STONES IN THE WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

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

SHARE THE PLATE GENEROSITY

We are pleased to announce that the [Share-the-Plate](#) recipient for July 20 is The Family Center of Kennett Square ([Maternal and Child Health Consortium of Chester County](#)).

The Kennett Square Family Center has been helping southern Chester County parents carry out their role as their children's first teachers since 2006. Their bilingual, bicultural Parent Educators use the nationally-recognized, evidence-based Parents as Teachers (PAT) Born to Learn™ home visiting model which equips parents with the information, support, resources, and encouragement they need to provide their children with the foundation for a lifetime of learning. Their Parent Educators:



- Screen all children for developmental delays and link to Early Intervention services.
- Complete structured home visits with activities geared toward teaching kids preschool skills and involving parents in their child's education.
- Facilitate group educational activities with age-appropriate curriculum.
- Enroll uninsured, eligible children into health insurance.
- Teach bilingual parenting education.
- Conduct an intensive summer-long Kindergarten Transition Program focused on preparing incoming kindergartners and their parents for school and assisting parents with school registration.

The Family Center now has two special programs targeting particular populations: teen and young adult parents, and fathers. The Young Parents Program targets parents ages 15-24 and helps them to overcome the special challenges they face to becoming successful parents, such as dealing with family issues, learning about the responsibilities of parenting, and dedicating time to addressing their own education and career prospects. The Fatherhood Initiative helps fathers learn to become more engaged in their children's growth and development, and become more effective husbands and fathers.

Thank you for your generosity to May recipient, Wings For Success, in the amount of \$405.

— Beth Daniels, email: [share-the-plate](#)

FIRST PRINCIPLE PROJECT LAUNCHED

The First Principle Project is our denomination's contribution to a nationwide effort to change the wording of our first principle from, "... the inherent worth and dignity of every person, to, "... the inherent worth and dignity of every being". At the July 6 service John Gribbin from our [Animal Ministry group](#) will explain the purpose and importance of this project while inviting all to join in an ongoing discussion of the topic.

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION PROJECT THIS MONTH'S SUGGESTED ITEM: CHUNKY SOUPS



Our [monthly food collection](#) is Sunday, July 6. 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. Unopened personal care items such as shampoo and soap are also welcome.

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](#).

CALL FOR SHARE-THE-PLATE NOMINATIONS

Please help make [Share-the-Plate](#) a success again this year. It is time to collect nominations for Share-the-Plate recipients for the coming year. By reaching out to the community, we are showing Chester County who we are, and for what we stand. In addition to providing some financial resources to the recipients, Share-the-Plate raises awareness of these non-profit organizations among the congregation.

The Social Justice Committee will choose a new list of Share-the-Plate recipients in August. If you would like to nominate an organization please click [HERE](#) for a blank nomination form or email a request for a Share-the-Plate nomination form to email: [share-the-plate](#). Submit completed forms to email: [share-the-plate](#). The deadline for nominations is August 16.

According to our guidelines, recipients should be local Chester County groups that help people in the area. Preference is given to small, local organizations that do not have large amounts of funds from government or other sources to sustain them.

If the agency you nominate is selected, please plan to invite someone from the agency to come to the service to speak for a minute or two when we do the collection. We found that donations increased significantly when someone came to the service to speak about the recipient organization.

Thank you for participating in Share-the-Plate. For more information, contact Beth Daniels, email: [share-the-plate](#).



SUPPORT YOUR SPIRITUALITY

Two weeks ago, we presented a budget which supported all of our existing functions, and the new interim minister, despite a \$31,980 deficit in new pledges. This is the largest deficit budget ever presented to our congregation. Instead of making the tough choices for you, we decided to present possible solutions and let the quorum that attended make the decision. The choices were as follows:

Cost Reductions

- Eliminate UUA and JPD Dues
- Do not Hire Pianist
- Reduce RE Director from 75% to 50%
- Reduce RE Director 401k
- Eliminate RE Director Professional Expenses
- Reduce Choir Director to 50%
- Renegotiate Minister Professional Expenses

Revenue Increases

- Ask for One-Time Gifts
- Increase Fund Raisers
- Increase Rentals and Rental Rate
- Collect Existing Pledges

After much discussion about how much we love our staff, and want to support our UUA values, the congregation decided to approve the deficit budget—with the intention of raising additional pledges from those not yet heard from, and from increases, supplemental gifts, and matching donations from those who already pledged.

It's now time to support your spirituality. We need all gifts and pledge increases in by July 15 in order to produce a revised budget for mid-September. Please use the online "Membership and Giving" "[Your Pledge](#)" part of our website as soon as possible, so that we will not need to make additional cost reductions. Thanks for your continued generosity.

— Janine Galen, [Finance Chair](#)

CONGREGATIONAL CALENDAR

All email addresses @ucwc.org unless otherwise noted.

Jul 2	Wed	Religious Education Committee. 6 p.m. Fireplace Rm. Contact Heidi Frayer, email: RE .
Jul 6	Sun	First Sunday Food Collection. Lobby. See p. 5.
Jul 9	Wed	Merger Task Force Meeting. Media. See p. 3. Animal Ministry. 7 p.m. Contact John Gribbin. Email: animal-ministry . See p. 5.
Jul 13	Sun	Safe Harbor Dinner. 6 p.m. Contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: safe-harbor
Jul 15	Tue	Gifts and Pledge Increases Needed by This Date. See <i>Support Your Spirituality</i> above.
Jul 20	Sun	Share-the-Plate Sunday. Benefits Kennett Square Family Center. See p. 5.
Jul 23	Wed	RE-Sponsored Ice Cream Social. 7 p.m. Chester Springs Creamery. See p. 4.
Jul 24	Thu	Merger Task Force Meeting. Office. See p. 3.