

UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF WEST CHESTER
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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 August, 2014

August 3, 10 a.m.

**TO GREET, OR NOT TO GREET...
THAT IS THE QUESTION**

**Barbara Long and the
Membership Committee**

Join us for a lighthearted time about how we might look at our visitors, plus a few suggestions on how we all can become welcomers at UCWC. The success of our Greeter Teams is connected to the overall relational warmth of the congregation. This service highlights one aspect of our Vision Statement. The production team of Cohle and Steel has put together a video that will be part of the morning.

August 10, 10 a.m.

THOUGHTS ON PEACE

Janet Hutchison

We hold peace as an ultimate goal. This Sunday falls in the same week as the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. Janet Hutchison, from our congregation, will examine statements about Peace from the *UU Creating Peace 2010 Statement of Conscience* and thoughts connected with her experiences of having visited Hiroshima and European WWII sites.

August 17, 10 a.m.

A GROWING EDGE

David Long

Every age has challenges and possibilities. What helps us keep a growing edge?

August 24, 10 a.m.

SINGING WITH PETE

UCWC Folk Singing Group

Add your voices as we pay tribute to one of the giants of folk singing. No one believed in the social and political power of group song more than Pete Seeger. He will always be with us.

August 31, 10 a.m.

TBA

**Rev. Peter Friedrichs
Minister of UU Church of Delaware County**

Topic TBA

REMARKS—WHERE’S THE DRE?

If you’ve walked through the downstairs hallway lately and peeked into my office, you’ve noticed that most of the contents are gone. In another few weeks, that space will have been turned into a classroom. What’s up? Where has the DRE gone?

The answer is that I’m still in the building, just in a different room. Moving my office in order to open up another classroom is one step in a process the RE Team and I have been engaged in—rethinking how the basement is used in order to get the most out of it and to accommodate our growing population. In addition to increased enrollment, there is also more pressure on the space since reverting to a single service. (RE classes used to meet at 9:00 a.m. and Youth Group at 11:00. Now, all meet at 10:00.)

Our first step was to move the DRE office into the “Sink Room.” That meant that dishes and flatware that we “inherited” with the building—service for about 150—needed to be moved out of the cupboards. (Huge thanks to Jen Roth and her daughter Charlotte for helping with this and other tasks.)

Another part of the plan is to stop trying to hold classes in the Fireplace Room. This “room” is essentially a hallway, and any classes held there are regularly disrupted as late-comers, the DRE, parents or others walk through. Our idea is to turn this into active space where people can enjoy a cup of coffee, wait for their children’s classes to be over, or read a book from the lending-library shelves. We’ve already moved the copy machine from my office into this space, to give easier access to teachers and keep the noise out of the hallway.

Hospitality is in the process of moving the paper and coffee-hour products out of the cabinets located in the Fireplace Room. This opens up space for RE supplies to be stored in this easy-access space and eliminates the need to walk through the Spirit Play class to access the storage closet currently in the back of the building.

One other major change we’re hoping to accomplish is to move the stove from the classroom at the very back of the building (the former kitchen), up front to the RE snack area. This will provide much easier and unlimited access for anyone needing to use the range/oven. This change involves installing a dedicated electric line and will wait until we have a report from the architect assessing our space use and the condition of the building. In the meantime, we are making the changes that we can, to make the best possible use of the space and to improve the whole RE experience for our children.

— Pam Baxter, [Director of Religious Ed.](#)

The RE Team and I have been engaged in rethinking how the basement is used, in order to get the most out of it and to accommodate our growing population.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

All ninth graders and above (high schoolers) who are interested in joining this dynamic group of teens should come to our first 2014-2015 Youth Group meeting on September 14 at 10 a.m. in the Youth Group Room downstairs. We will have snacks and interesting conversations and find out about the fUUn and fabUULous things we will do this year in UCWC Youth Group (YRUU) and beyond.

Our tremendous youth group along with adult advisors attended another summer Youth Conference at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville, Maryland on the weekend of July 11-13.

Fuun in the Suun was a bridging “con”, and the ceremony to bridge from Teen to Young Adult was joyful, yet sad, for everyone in the community. There were tears shed by all. Stories of their first “con” experiences were shared by the recently graduated seniors, and many shared how the friendships they have shared over four years and the loving, welcoming, and supportive community changed their lives and transformed them as well as prepared them for young adulthood.

They were greeted with great big hugs from the JPD Young Adult Group (YacPac) and given words of wisdom about finding UU communities at their colleges or on whatever adventure they choose for their life journeys.

Singing, workshops, and interesting conversations abounded.

For more information about our Youth Group contact Marie Steel at email: youth-group.

RE-SPONSORED ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Come on out for our last ice cream social of the summer—nothing fancy, just yummy ice cream with Fellowship friends and an opportunity for the kids to play together: Thursday, August 21, at 7 p.m. at [Northbrook Orchard](#), 1805 Unionville-Wawaset Road, West Chester. This event is open to anyone in the Fellowship, their families, and friends. Contact Pam Baxter at email: [DRE](#).



A CHALLENGE TO US ALL

We are working on closing the budget deficit that was agreed upon at the June 8 meeting. Through your generosity, we have received \$7,300 in one-time gifts, \$9,100 paid towards current pledges and \$4,400 towards previous year pledges. As a result, we are \$20,800 closer to our goal. But we still have a deficit which will require additional attention by September.

Unfortunately, there was a miscommunication and there were no matching donors set up since our meeting. However, there was a \$500 challenge made by the Palmquists to encourage every member and friend to donate an extra \$500 to help close the gap and ensure that all programs are operating as usual for the exciting new year.

Please take a moment to do whatever you can to complete the challenge, or at least complete your prior year pledge, if you have not already done so. Remember our summer expenses need to be paid even while some of us are away on vacation. Thank you for your stewardship of our amazing community.

— Janine Galen,
[Executive Treasurer](#)

GETTING TO KNOW UUS

Are you curious about who we are at UCWC? Would you like to meet with some of us informally over coffee? Then you are invited to bring your cup of coffee and join us on August 24, following services at 11:15 a.m., for 20 minutes of "Getting to Know UUs." Contact Barbara Long at email: [membership](#).

MERGER TASK FORCE UPDATE

The Merger Task Force has been engaged in a successful series of meetings over the past several months. We have learned much about each other's congregations. Both congregations are coming from positions of strength, and the Task Force sees many possibilities for future collaboration. Specific talks concerning a merger are currently in abeyance pending the arrival of our interim minister and his assimilation into the life of the congregation.

The Task Force is recommending that the group reconvene with both ministers in attendance in late September/early October. The purpose of the meeting is to reopen conversation around a proposed merger and to see if it makes sense to continue this process.

If you have any questions or would like to provide a comment on the proposed merger, please contact the UCWC Merger Team at email: [merger](#).

FOLK SINGING

The next [folk singing](#) get-together is Saturday, August 2, at 8 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. Part of our time this month will be spent going over the songs that we plan to sing at the August 24 Sunday service.

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](#).

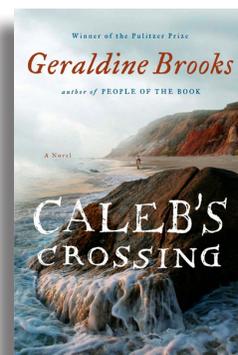


EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP AUGUST 17 7:00-8:30 PM UCWC OFFICE

CALEB'S CROSSING BY GERALDINE BROOKS

Bethia Mayfield is a restless and curious young woman growing up in Martha's Vineyard in the 1660s amid a small band of pioneering English Puritans. At age twelve, she meets Caleb, the young son of a chieftain, and the two forge a secret bond that draws each into the alien world of the other. Bethia's father is a Calvinist minister who seeks to convert the native Wampanoag, and Caleb becomes a prize in the contest between old ways and new, eventually becoming the first Native American graduate of Harvard College.

Inspired by a true story and narrated by the irresistible Bethia, *Caleb's Crossing* brilliantly captures the triumphs and turmoil of two brave, openhearted spirits who risk everything in a search for knowledge at a time of superstition and ignorance. Sandy Schaal will lead the discussion. All are welcome.



STONES IN THE WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

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

ANIMAL MINISTRY LAUNCHES FIRST PRINCIPLE PROJECT

To generate interest and participation in the ongoing First Principle Project, our [Animal Ministry \(AM\) Group](#) will host a veggie pot luck following the service on Sunday, August 10.

In addition to serving and describing various veggie offerings, members of the AM Group will distribute literature and answer questions concerning the project which seeks to change the wording of the First Principle as stated in the UUA bylaws from the current wording of: *"To affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person"* to *"...every being."*

Rev. LoraKim Joyner, the project's advisory and steering team leader, states that the project's mission is to deepen our religious understanding of the human species' place in a multi-species world. Rev. Joyner, a former wildlife veterinarian in Latin American, also serves as a Community Minister in Multi-Species Ministry and Compassionate Communications.

As a requisite for placement on the General Assembly's Agenda for its business meeting in June 2015, a total of fifteen congregations, or one district, needs to approve the proposed change. Members of our AM group are striving to have our congregation among those that fulfill this condition. In addition to the veggie pot luck, the AM group also invites all members to attend a Discussion Group on the First Principle Project on Wednesday, August 13, at 7 p.m. This meeting will serve as an opportunity for members to share their thoughts on this project.

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



Our [monthly food collection](#) is Sunday, August 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. 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.

SHARE-THE-PLATE GENEROSITY

We are pleased to announce that the [share-the-plate](#) recipient for August 17 is [Canine Partners for Life](#).

Since 1989, Canine Partners for Life (CPL) has been dedicated to training service dogs and home companion dogs to assist individuals who have a wide variety of physical and cognitive disabilities. As a leader in the assistance dog field, CPL is an accredited member of [Assistance Dogs International](#).

Canine Partners for Life, located in Cochranville, Pennsylvania, offers training and placement of service and companion dogs for the physically and cognitively impaired. To date, CPL has placed over 500 service and companion dogs to individuals in 43 states.

It is estimated that the total cost of breeding, training and placing each dog amounts to over \$27,000. However, CPL uses a sliding scale based on income, so that no one is denied a partner due to financial limitations.



CONGREGATIONAL CALENDAR

All email addresses @ucwc.org unless otherwise noted.

- Aug 2 Sat Folk Singing.** 8:00 p.m. At the home of Linda and Steve Sander. See p. 3.
- Aug 3 Sun First Sunday Food Collection.** Lobby. See p. 4.
- Aug 6 Wed Religious Education Committee.** 6 p.m. Fireplace Rm. Contact Heidi Frayer, email: RE.
- Aug 10 Sun Animal Ministry First Principle Project Veggie Potluck.** After the service. See p. 4.
Safe Harbor Dinner. 6 p.m. Contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: safe-harbor
- Aug 13 Wed Animal Ministry.** 7 p.m. Contact John Gribbin. Email: animal-ministry. See p. 4.
- Aug 16 Sat Share the Plate Nomination Deadline.** To nominate a Share the Plate recipient, send a nomination form to Beth Daniels at email: share-the-plate. See the [July Fellowtarian](#), p. 6.
- Aug 17 Sun Share the Plate Sunday.** Benefits Canine Partners for Life. See p. 4.
Exploring Diversity Book Group. 7-8:30 p.m. See p. 3.
- Aug 21 Thu R.E. Ice Cream Social.** 7 p.m., Northbrook Orchard. See p. 2.
- Aug 24 Sun Social Justice Committee.** 11:15 a.m. To select the 2014-2015 Share the Plate and Social Action Trust Fund recipients.
Getting to Know UUs. 11:15 p.m. See p. 3.
- Aug 26 Tue Board Meeting.** 7 p.m. Office. All are welcome. Contact Shelly Case, e-mail: president.

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