



the  
**FELLOWTARIAN**

**Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester**

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**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.*

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## **SUNDAY SERVICES MAY 2015**

**May 3 10:00 a.m.**

**OUR IDENTITY: THE GUIDE TO OUR FUTURE**

**Rev. William Zelazny**

One of the interim tasks with which I was charged is to help us to better articulate "who we are." In February we began the process with a survey. This sermon will be a report back of the survey results and a discussion about what this might mean for UCWC going forward.

We will also hold the long awaited Mortgage Burning Ceremony after the service, weather permitting.

**May 10 10:00 a.m.**

**PARENTING IS APPLIED SPIRITUALITY**

**Rev. William Zelazny**

On this Sunday, on which we traditionally honor mothers, Bill will broaden the perspective and look at parenting with a focus on the spiritual aspect of this great calling and how we, whether we have children or not, can be spiritual parents to others.

We will also celebrate the dedication of several children from the congregation. Regrettably, there can only be a limited number of children who can be accommodated during the service so, if you have been thinking about having your child(ren) dedicated please talk to Pam Baxter immediately.

Finally, we will bring back a custom that Bill has been told was practiced by this congregation in the past — a flower ceremony (flower communion). For this ceremony everyone is invited to bring a flower to the service and at the end of the service take a flower home.

**May 17 10:00 a.m.**

**MUSIC SUNDAY: GO OUT WITH JOY**

**Miriam Davis and  
The Spirit Singers and Musicians**

A musical celebration moving us to the future.

**May 24 10:00 a.m.**

**HONORING THAT WE DIE**

**Rev. Nancy Dean**

A service for Memorial Day for the memory of those who have died in service to this country, and for those we loved who have passed on. Rev. Dean is Minister Emerita of the UU Society of Mill Creek, Newark, Delaware, which she served from 1995 to her retirement in 2010. She has been attending UCWC this year.

**May 31 10:00 a.m.**

**RE SUNDAY: OUR FAVORITE THINGS**

**Pam Baxter and RE Teachers**

The "Favorite Things" song from The Sound of Music provides the theme for our annual celebration of RE teachers and students. Along with class presentations, we'll recognize our 7th/8th graders for completion of the Coming of Age program, and hear their credos. This special day will also include Bridging our high school seniors from youth to young adulthood. All against the backdrop of presenting the things our kids say they like most about being in RE. Please stay after the service for our traditional Teacher Appreciation Brunch.

**Services, Religious Education, and Babysitting at 10 a.m.**

## FROM THE MINISTER

This month there are two important events for UCWC for which I hope you will make time. The first is the “Stay or Go” vote on May 17. Members of the congregation have been studying the options for several years. We have had informational meetings and other opportunities to for questions to be asked.



Now it's time to make a decision.

Do we stay in our current facility, at least for a while longer, making necessary improvement for health and safety, facility utilization, accessibility, and aesthetics (yes, that will mean spending money), or do we leave 501 S. High Street for a new location (yes, that will mean spending money)? There are a couple more weeks during which you can ask questions of the Stay or Go Committee. (Mary Yeager is the chair.) Please make room in your schedule to come to the congregational meeting and vote.

The second event, while not a vote, I believe is also important for UCWC's future—a discussion about who we are as a congregation. On May 3, I will talk about the survey we did in February that had as its objective identifying what we agree upon as elements of a congregation description.

About two-thirds of the congregation responded, so there is a very high probability that we identified what we agree upon about who we are. There is also some amount of disagreement or at least ambiguity about several of the elements. And that is OK—we can spend time next year further clarifying our self-description.

I hope you will be able to come to the service on May 3 to hear the report and then reflect on what this might mean for us.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Thanks to all who attended our congregational meeting on April 19.**

The Congregation voted to confirm the new Ministerial Search Team: Ed Cohle, Joanne Gibson, Janet Hutchison, Amanda Lipnack, Jon McCormack, Joshua Sweet, and Michael Werner.

Because Ministerial Search Team members may not serve on the Board or other committees, the Board accepted resignations from Board Trustee Joshua Sweet and Transition Team member Ed Cohle. The Board has asked Jim MacFadyen to complete Joshua Sweet's term and is discussing a replacement for Ed Cohle's position.

Thanks go to Marie Steele for the wonderful poster she made of the search team.

The Congregation voted to call Rev. Kate as our Minister Emerita. See last month's Fellowtarian for information about this. A special thanks to Flo Miller and Cyndy Bullaughey.

**Other Board updates include:**

- The Board and the Stay-or-Go Committee are developing a resolution for presentation at a congregational vote on May 17. As per by-law requirement, the resolution will be sent to members ten days before the meeting.
- One of our interim tasks in preparation for our new settled minister is to review and revise the by-laws. A subcommittee of the Board has been working with Rev. Bill and members of congregation to clarify and update our present by-laws. Our goal is to have by-law changes ready for our June congregational meeting.
- We are planning to review our policies next year, so that all our governing documents are up to date and easy to read when we welcome our new minister.
- In our exploration of the by-laws, we found that it is expected that the Board make minutes of Board meetings available to the congregation. We are addressing this, and once we have the details worked out, we will let the congregation know how and where to find them.

— Shelly Case, UCWC President

## A LISTENING CIRCLE TO TALK ABOUT THE MINISTER SEARCH PROCESS REV. BILL ZELAZNY

I know there are varying opinions and a range of emotions around UCWC about the search for the permanent minister. On Wednesday, May 27, at 7:00 p.m. I will host a Listening Circle in our sanctuary for members and friends to talk about what they are thinking and feeling regarding this important activity. I am inviting the current Board members, the in-coming Board members and the Search Committee members to come to hear what is being said by the Congregation as we start our search process.

*The basic ground rule will be no debate or attempts at persuasion.*

I will kick off the evening with a short presentation about the search process, and then we will have an opportunity to listen to each other. The basic ground rule will be no debate or attempts at persuasion. This is just to be a time for anyone who wants to express an opinion to do so in an open and safe environment.

## REMARKS: STAYING OR GOING CHECKING IN WITH THE CHILDREN

Amid the flurry of meetings and discussions, info. boards and walk-throughs, it finally occurred to me that we hadn't talked with the children about the question of staying in our current building or finding a new home. Of course, there are financial and practical aspects of the Stay or Go decision that are far beyond most children's ability to grasp, nor can the children vote. But although the children are not shareholders in the congregation, they are stakeholders. What are their thoughts about staying or going? I thought that we should know.



So, in classes and during Children's Worship, I first made sure that they were aware of the Stay or Go prospects. Not surprisingly, there was a general clamor that "We want to stay!" I pointed out some of the reasons why we were considering different space. And then I posed these questions:

- If we decide to stay in our building, what are changes/improvements that you would like to see?
- If we decide to move, what are things that you would like our new space to have that we don't (or can't) have in this building?

### If we stay.

The younger children (PreK through 4th grade) asked for:

- More space (especially for the Worship area)
- Larger rooms
- More windows
- Dedicated Worship space
- More classrooms
- Outside playground
- Science room
- Room for a pet!

The older children (5th through 8th grade) asked for:

- General sprucing up
- De-cluttering
- Classroom "makeovers," with input from kids on colors
- "Chalkboard-painted" wall in each classroom
- Parking Lot
- Outdoor playground

### Ideas for a new building came mostly from the 7th/8th graders. They suggested:

- A larger, very welcoming lobby, with a fireplace and couches
- Inspirational UU quotes on the walls
- Big parking lot
- Natural lighting
- A feel / connection with nature
- An outside classroom (pavilion)
- A playground
- Mural wall

They said that they would not want a new building to be too big or intimidating. When I asked them about levels, they said that this don't matter, i.e., they don't care if classrooms are on the same level as the sanctuary or not. For both staying or going, they mentioned having the walls in the RE space painted something other than white; having a color scheme.

And finally, there was this suggestion from a first-grader: "Why don't we knock down that wall and make this space bigger?" Bold thinking! And if we stay, we might just do that.

— Pam Baxter, Director of Religious Ed.

## ADULT EDUCATION MEDICARE 101 WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Join Mark Steel of the Senior Resources Group as he offers insight on Medicare. Mark will explain how Medicare works, the different Medicare healthcare options available to you, and how to identify the right plan to meet your needs.

There will be a choice of sessions: Wednesday, May 13, from 7 to 8 p.m. or a second session (date and time to be decided). Light snacks will be provided on Sunday.



## UNDERSTANDING OUR BUDGET

Do you want to learn how we use our resources? What types of things we spend money on, how we support our community, how much we earn in fundraising activities?

Come to our study session on Saturday, May 30, at 10 a.m. to get a primer on the budget, just in time for the budget proposal vote in June. We look forward to seeing you there. If you have questions you want covered, feel free to send them in advance to email: [treasurer](mailto:treasurer).



## STAY OR GO

In our journey to evaluate the suitability of our building for our congregational mission, we have had more gatherings than I can count, more questions asked than I can list here, and have found more options than I ever imagined when I started this task. It was invigorating to see so many options available to us, and now I feel a mixture of regret and hope, because we must choose one path for the present.

Regret because if we choose to stay in our building, we will at least temporarily give up the potential for a parking lot, extra space, and playgrounds. If we choose to go, we would probably lose our visibility in the borough, our feeling of connectedness with the West Chester community, and our inspiring sanctuary space.

But I have hope that, in whichever course we follow, we will be unified by a consensus decision that this is the right choice for us at this time. If we stay, we must support upgrades to our building so that our volunteers, staff, members, friends, and visitors can optimize their experiences here in our building. If we vote to move, each of us must support that decision with our time, talents, and treasure.



Our building in 2004

Just as we recently voted for our ministerial search nominees, you will be presented with a resolution for choosing the course we will pursue together for developing a plan for our physical plant. This resolution is being developed in consultation with the Board and the Stay or Go Taskforce.

The Taskforce and the Board have been collecting input from you, the members and friends of the congregation, for over two years. Based on your input and the information gathered by the Taskforce, the Board will recommend a resolution to you shortly. We will have another congregational meeting after Sunday service on May 17 for members to vote on this resolution. Whatever course we take, we need to follow through and support it with our actions and our resources.

— **Mary Yeager**, Stay or Go Taskforce Chair

*I have hope that, in whichever course we follow, we will be unified by a consensus decision that this is the right choice for us at this time.*

## REVISED DATES FOR MAY ORIENTATION SESSIONS PATH TO MEMBERSHIP

Because of conflicts with meetings after services in April, we now invite you to be our guest Sundays, May 3 and May 10, immediately following the service at 11:15 to 12:30. There is an alternate date of May 17, from 9:00 to 10:00 for anyone who can't make it on May 10.

We welcome visitors and friends to join the larger Unitarian Universalist movement and become members of Unitarian Congregation of West Chester. Before taking this step, we encourage our visitors to become familiar with UCWC by attending Sunday services and participating in some of our many events. Our orientation sessions during "Path to Membership" is a great way to get to know members and leaders of our community and to learn more about who we are and what we do here at UCWC.

It is an exciting time to belong to our community. We have a lot to look forward to, and becoming a member to be able to vote with us does make a difference. Please RSVP at email: [membership](mailto:membership). We are happy to provide child care; however, we need to know in advance to be able to plan accordingly.

The following quote by religious educator, Edith Hunter, sums it up. "Perhaps we should realize that our need is not to 'find something to believe'—but rather to discover that our lives indicate what we believe right now. This is the place to start." Join us this spring at UCWC.

## ANNUAL REPORTS

### To all committee chairs, team leaders, and task force members:

The Congregation Annual Report (CAR) must be made available for the Annual Meeting that's scheduled for Sunday, June 7. Your help is needed to document the activity-filled year at UCWC.

Please make an annual report for your committee, team, or task force, so that it may be included in the CAR. There is an easy-to-use guide at <http://repository.ucwc.org/carform.doc>

Please send your reports to email: [office](mailto:office). The deadline to get your reports in the CAR is **May 26**.

Thank you for your cooperation with the Congregation Annual Report.

## STONES IN THE WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

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

### FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION

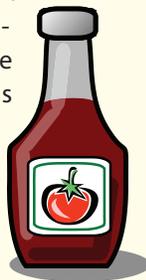
**THIS MONTH'S SUGGESTED ITEM: CONDIMENTS  
(MUSTARD, KETCHUP, PICKLES, ETC.)**

Our **monthly food collection** is Sunday, May 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.

In addition to food items, the food cupboard gratefully accepts paper items such as paper towels and toilet paper, unopened personal care products such as shampoo and soap, and pet food.

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).



### GARDENING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

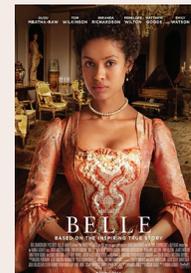
We planted the first of our broccoli in April with more to follow in May. Join us Thursday evenings 5:00-6:30 as we plant, mulch, weed, and harvest broccoli and edamame for the West Chester Food Cupboard. If you want to know more, check out our [web page](#) or contact Mary Yeager at email: [gleaning](mailto:gleaning).



### DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

**SUN, MAY 17 7-8:30 P.M.**  
**UCWC SANCTUARY**

*Belle* is a 2013 British period drama inspired by the 1779 painting of Dido Elizabeth Belle beside her cousin Lady Elizabeth Murray, at Kenwood House. Dido Belle, born in the West Indies, was the illegitimate mixed-race daughter of Lord Mansfield's nephew. She was found living in poverty by her father and entrusted to the care of Mansfield and his wife.



The fictional film centers on Dido's relationship as a young woman with an aspiring lawyer. It is set at a time of legal significance, as a court case is heard on what became known as the Zong massacre, when slaves were thrown overboard from a slave ship and the owner filed with his insurance company for the loss. Lord Mansfield rules on this case in England's Court of King's Bench in 1786, in a decision seen to contribute to the abolition of slavery in Britain.

For more information contact email: [diversity-book-group](mailto:diversity-book-group).

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE INVOLVED WITH UUPLAN?

For those of us who may not be familiar with it, UUPLAN stands for UU Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network.

A stated purpose of UUPLAN is as follows: "As Unitarian Universalists in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania we seek to bring a liberal religious message of justice, compassion, and human rights into the state legislative process."



This past April 12, state-wide Director Anita Mentzer visited with us, attended our Sunday service on "A Spiritual Walk With Mother Earth" with readings and videos, shared in a luncheon after the service, and led a presentation and discussion on the current work and vision of UUPLAN. There was a good response to the day's activities.

That and other events may have sparked an interest. One can participate with UUPLAN as an individual and/or a congregation. One issue presently being discussed and supported by UUPLAN, and the national UUA, is the raising of minimum wage.

If you or someone you know would like to become involved, or be further involved, click [HERE](#), or contact David Long, our liaison, at email: [uuplan](mailto:uuplan).

## SHARE THE PLATE

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 that the share-the-plate recipient for May 17 (third Sunday of the month) is **Habitat For Humanity**.

Habitat for Humanity provides basic, well-built, affordable, owner-occupied homes for people in need in a way that builds hope, dignity, and independence, develops partnerships, and encourages community. Their primary objective is to eliminate poverty housing in Chester County by building low income, owner-occupied housing, which leads to more stable neighborhoods.

HFHCC's mission to unite Pennsylvanians around the cause of decent, affordable housing for everyone is inextricably linked to the need to support safe, healthy communities and a sustainable environment. HFHCC seeks to be a model green builder in the affordable housing industry and an advocacy leader in the growing green building movement.

Thank you for your generosity to February's Share The Plate recipient, Safe Harbor of Chester County, in the amount of \$415.



## UNITY COFFEE HOUSE

The last UUnity Coffeehouse of the season—before our summer break—will be Saturday, May 9, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We do need your support (performers and audience members alike). It's a great room for intimate music, and we'd love to continue this offering to the community.

Performers sign up starting at 6:30 p.m. Each slot is 15 minutes. Briefly the rules are: no act may exceed three songs/15 minutes (setup included), no more than three performers per act, no intricate setups, no drum kits, you use our house PA/amplifiers, and we control the volume. Direct questions to email : [coffee-house](#) well in advance.

A \$5 donation is requested to benefit the UCWC. Light refreshments are available as well for a free will donation. Come support and meet some talented local musicians in their native habitat.



## FOLK SINGING

The next folk singing get-together is Saturday, May 2, at 7:30 p.m. We meet 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](#).



## UUSC UPDATE WATER RIGHTS

UUSC is urgently assisting drought-stricken residents with no potable water in California towns. With UUSC support, the Human Right to Water Act was passed in California in 2012. UUSC is providing:

- Tankers full of water to provide families with water for cooking, cleaning, and drinking.
- Bus fare to bring people from communities that lack safe water to Sacramento to speak to elected officials during drought negotiations.

In Kenya, near the Kakamega Rain Forest, as a result of the climate changes affecting rainfall, communities now have only one growing season rather than two. UUSC is helping people in Kakamega protect their water supply, their food supply, and their larger environment.



UUSC needs \$50,000 to support these communities. Can you donate? Click [HERE](#) and **please indicate your affiliation with UCWC**. Any amount you contribute will make you a member of UUSC. Our goal is 100% membership.

### Stop the Water Shutoffs in Detroit.

Between now and Mother's Day, May 10, join the UUSC call on President Obama to stand up for families in Detroit and defend the human right to water by doing the following:

- Offer immediate assistance with utility bills and enforcement of affordability standards.
- Support programs to stop foreclosures related to water bills and address public health needs created by the shutoffs.
- Instruct all relevant federal agencies to send representatives to Detroit to meet with residents during the solidarity convening May 29–30.

Imagine facing the pressure of choosing between paying a water bill that is twice the national average and meeting other basic needs. It's an extraordinary burden—and the struggle for affordable water will not end with Detroit. Baltimore recently sent 23,000 water shutoff notices to low-income residents.

We must act. To sign UUSC's petition to President Obama, click [HERE](#).

# CONGREGATIONAL CALENDAR

ALL EMAIL ADDRESSES @UCWC.ORG

- |               |            |  |
|---------------|------------|--|
| <b>May 1</b>  | <b>Fri</b> | <b>Game Night.</b> 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary.  |
| <b>May 2</b>  | <b>Sat</b> | <b>Folk Singing.</b> 7:30 p.m. Home of Linda and Steve Sander. See p. 6.   |
| <b>May 3</b>  | <b>Sun</b> | <b>First Sunday Food Collection.</b> Lobby. See p. 5.<br><b>Path to Membership Session I.</b> (Re-scheduled from April) 11:15 a.m. Office. See p. 4.   |
| <b>May 6</b>  | <b>Wed</b> | <b>Pathwork.</b> 7 p.m. See September <i>Fellowtarian</i> , p. 5, for details.   |
| <b>May 7</b>  | <b>Thu</b> | <b>Spirit Singers Practice.</b> 7:15-9:15 p.m. Sanctuary. Contact Miriam Davidson, email: <a href="mailto:choir@ucwc.org">choir</a>  |
| <b>May 9</b>  | <b>Sat</b> | <b>UUnity Coffee House.</b> 7 p.m. Performers may sign up at 6:30. Contact Judy Perri, email: <a href="mailto:coffee-house@ucwc.org">coffee-house</a> . See p. 6.  |
| <b>May 10</b> | <b>Sun</b> | <b>Child Dedications at Sunday Services.</b> See service blurb, p. 1.<br><b>Youth Group.</b> 9:45 a.m. Foyer. Email: <a href="mailto:youth-group@ucwc.org">youth-group</a> .<br><b>Path to Membership Session II.</b> (Re-scheduled from April) 11:15 a.m. Office. See p. 4.   |
| <b>May 12</b> | <b>Tue</b> | <b>Program Council Meeting.</b> 7-9 p.m. Office. Contact Amanda Lipnack, email: <a href="mailto:program@ucwc.org">program</a> .  |
| <b>May 13</b> | <b>Wed</b> | <b>Adult Education - Medicare 101.</b> 8 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 3.   |
| <b>May 14</b> | <b>Thu</b> | <b>Spirit Singers Practice.</b> 7:15-9:15 p.m. Sanctuary Contact Miriam Davidson, email: <a href="mailto:choir@ucwc.org">choir</a>   |
| <b>May 16</b> | <b>Sat</b> | <b>Tapas and Trivia.</b> 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary. Bring a plate of tapas. Contact email: <a href="mailto:fun@ucwc.org">fun</a> .   |
| <b>May 17</b> | <b>Sun</b> | <b>Spirit Singers Sing at Sunday Service.</b><br><b>Share-the-Plate Sunday.</b> Benefits <a href="http://www.habitatforhumanity.org">Habitat for Humanity</a> . See p. 6.<br><b>Congregational Meeting — Stay or Go Vote.</b> Following the Service. See <i>From the Minister</i> , p. 2 and <i>Stay or Go</i> , p. 4.<br><b>Diversity Book Group.</b> 7:00 p.m. Office. See p. 5. |
| <b>May 19</b> | <b>Tue</b> | <b>Board Meeting.</b> 7:00 p.m. Office. Email: <a href="mailto:president@ucwc.org">president</a> .   |
| <b>May 21</b> | <b>Thu</b> | <b>RE Committee.</b> Contact email: <a href="mailto:re@ucwc.org">RE</a> .  |
| <b>May 22</b> | <b>Fri</b> | <b>Lunch Group.</b> 11:30 a.m. Panera Bread. See below, right.   |
| <b>May 27</b> | <b>Wed</b> | <b>Ministerial Search Listening Circle.</b> 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 2.   |
| <b>May 30</b> | <b>Sat</b> | <b>Understanding Our Budget Session.</b> See p. 3.   |
| <b>May 31</b> | <b>Sun</b> | <b>RE Sunday.</b> See service blurb, p. 1. for complete details.   |

**EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:**

**Thursdays**                    **Gardening for Our Neighbors.** 5 p.m. See p. 5.

## LUNCH GROUP

Lunch group will meet Friday, May 22, at 11:30 a.m. at Panera Bread, 1103 West Chester Pike, near ShopRite. Newcomers are welcome.

To be added to the email reminder list, contact Linda Sander at email: [lunch-group](mailto:lunch-group@ucwc.org).

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.



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