



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.*

SUNDAY SERVICES AUGUST 2016

August 7 10 a.m.

WHY BLACK LIVES MATTER — TO ME

Janet Hutchinson

Supporting the Black Lives Matter movement is an important initiative of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Our congregation voted to actively and publicly join in this racial justice program, including the hanging of a Black Lives Matter on our property. Tied to Janet's personal experiences as a parent of a bi-racial family, she will share thoughts and ideas about what each of us can do to make a difference and create a better world.

August 14 10 a.m.

WALT WHITMAN: A UNITARIAN POET?

Flo Miller

With roots in Quakerism, Walt Whitman is generally not claimed by Unitarian Universalists as one of our own. Yet much of his poetry speaks to our values as UUs. In this service we will explore his life and works in terms of what it means to be a UU in today's world.

August 21 10 a.m.

SINGING FOR FUN

UCWC Folk Singing Interest Group

This has been a summer of highly distressing news. Had enough? Today we'll treat you to a session of non-stop fun. Check your mind at the door, and sing your cares away.

August 28 10 a.m.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Alan Pittenger and Gerry Giess

Come for an introduction to the experience of Small Group Ministry. It's a great chance to get together with others and talk about something other than the usual "after the service coffee and snacks conversation topics".

Services and Babysitting at 10 a.m.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

We don't heal in isolation, but in community — S. Kelley Harrell

What a difference a month makes. So much violence and fear and anger and hate in these last few weeks; it's quite difficult to stay informed, and yet not get saddened or angry by the images we see and hear in the media, in print, and in everyday conversations. For those that are feeling unusually tired and frustrated or anxious, know that you are not alone. We are human, and we feel pain when others hurt. Regardless of which event upset you the most, it's important to remember that we are extremely blessed to have a community of caring people to connect with right here every day.

While there are many ways to cope—meditation, take a walk outside, write a letter, ask for hugs, have a glass of wine, turn off the television, journal your thoughts, exercise, or pull weeds in the garden—each of us can also be a resource for others.

As we do whatever it is that helps us each live another day, remember that many people are hurting in their lives because it's just too much for them. Literally trying to keep their families safe, earn a living and pursue their life's purpose is becoming overwhelming. We can be the friendly smile, the warm hug, the quiet space for reflection, and the place where compassion for others is one with our values.

I believe we have something special here. Something that people are searching for right now. Let's remember what we have to offer and express our absolute gratitude that we have a warm, loving, supportive community to help others who are looking for comfort in these difficult times.



GREETINGS FROM THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

We are enjoying a busy summer, making sure that the plans are finessed and ready for the arrival of Rev. Dan Schatz. The committee continues to work with the architects to make sure that the renovation plans meet the needs of our community. We have heard comments and suggestions from many of you, and we are working on addressing several adjustments to the first draft.

Thank you for all your input. Our goal is to make sure the building is a welcoming, safe, and beautiful place for all to worship together.

More to come as the plans reach their final stage.



ANNUAL SERVICE AUCTION HELP NEEDED



Our annual service auction returns on Saturday, October 29, and we are in need of volunteers. This is a big, fun social event and our biggest annual fundraiser. Please consider joining the team. We are in need of:

- People to solicit business donations
- People to set-up the raffle table and sell raffle tickets after service on October 16 and 23
- People to call and email members to remind them to donate service items
- A creative person to make a poster using pictures from past years
- Someone to purchase beverages
- People to help set up Friday evening, October 28
- Several volunteers for the night of the auction

The auction is October 29 — dinner at 5 p.m. and the auction at 6 p.m. It's not too early to start thinking about your auction donation.

We accept services, antiques, valuables, and gift cards. We also ask that committees and hospitality teams chip in to donate a basket or item to raffle.

Contact Nancy Artus, Auction Chair, at email: auction with questions or to volunteer.

REMARKS: SANCTUARY AND SPACE

Recently, for a course I'm taking, I was asked to describe a childhood spiritual experience. The experience that came to mind was of sitting in a pew of the Congregational church that was our family church from the time I was five years old until I was thirteen. In the memory, I'm about seven years old and sitting next to my mother. The sanctuary is much like ours here at UCWC: spacious, with a high, arched ceiling, and full of light from the tall windows that line both sides of the room. I don't remember if there was no Sunday school that day, or whether I chose to stay upstairs with the grownups instead of joining my class. The feeling I had was of a sense of completeness and of safety. The sanctuary was somehow a container for God, whatever God was. In that space, I didn't need to be good, or smart, or brave. I felt safe and held. In that hour, I could be within myself; could be with God.



Several Sundays ago I sat in the UCWC sanctuary listening to the service. I was also observing. I noticed two boys, children of a fairly new family to us, sitting relaxed and quietly in their chairs. They occasionally watched whoever was speaking at the moment. Sometimes they looked beyond people to the space itself or perhaps to something invisible. A little girl of another family that has attended UCWC for several years put her head in her mother's lap and looked all around in an almost dreamy way. I watched as she reached up her arm and with her finger traced something I couldn't see. Were these children having a spiritual experience?

There are some great words by Rev. William Ellery Channing that we UU religious educators often quote:

The great end in religious instruction, is not to stamp our minds upon the young, but to stir up their own; not to make them see with our eyes, but to look inquiringly and steadily with their own; not to give them a definite amount of knowledge, but to inspire a fervent love of truth; not to form an outward regularity, but to touch inward springs...

Certainly in all of our RE classes—and most intentionally in Spirit Play—we strive to create an environment that is not always filled with others' ideas, external things, and facts for children to learn, but also to open up what religious educator Jerome Berryman calls the "middle ground." Here, in space deliberately not filled with something else, children can engage with the silent energy of the universe—the Mystery that some people call God—and with their own deep knowing. Let us not always rush in to fill that space, but help children find it and fill it themselves.

— Pam Baxter

Director of Lifespan Faith Development

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

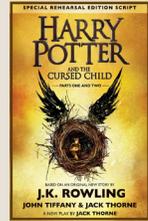
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HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD LIVE READ-THROUGH AUG 27 2-5 PM AT UCWC

We will share fun, fellowship and light refreshments, and we'll have themed crafts for younger children. No acting experience necessary, and all ages are welcome—obviously, children wanting a role will have to be readers. Parents should be aware that some of J. K. Rowling's writing can be a little scary for youngest children.



Bring your friends. Sign up to read a part in a scene or two in our low-key read through. Signups will begin at 2 p.m.

The play will be available July 31; you can pre-order a copy. We will have a limited number of scripts on hand on the 27th. Rev. Dan and Pam will read the book ASAP to see how PG it is. If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, or to help coordinate the read-through, please contact Rev. Schatz or Pam Baxter.

AUGUST R.E. ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The RE Committee invites you to our August Ice Cream Social on Thursday, August 18. This is an opportunity for Fellowship folks of all ages to stay connected while enjoying a refreshing treat.



We'll meet at Maggie Moo's (Main Street in Exton) at 7 p.m. There's a grassy area for kids to run around in, and the ice cream has been vetted by parents of children with nut allergies. Come join us.

STONES IN THE WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

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



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF
LOVE UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF WEST CHESTER

NOTES AND UPDATES

Early on July 7, we received an email from president Janine Galen urging us to hold a vigil for Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, the most recent victims of a police shooting. With the help and support of Stephen Foery, our Office Administrator, we were able to put together a candlelight vigil that night at 7 p.m. It was estimated that 60 people attended, both UCWC members and a large number from the African American community.

Flo Miller, our BLM chair, led the vigil, which included lighting candles in memory of Mr. Sterling and Mr. Castile as well as for fifteen others who have died in past couple of years. Time was given for anyone to share their stories, fears, and concerns, and many did so.

Following this, we gathered outside with candles to silently—then later with song—remember and mourn those who have died. A prayer was offered by Pastor Croft from St Paul's Baptist Church.

We are thankful for all the UCWC members who showed up on short notice to support BLM. Some of our future events may also be last-minute, and we will do our best to keep you all updated on our and other community activities related to BLM. Please do contact us with your questions or concerns at email: black-lives-matter.

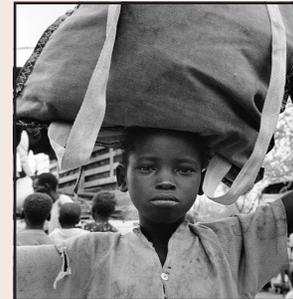
— Ruth MacFadyen
Vice-chair Black Lives Matter Committee

UPCOMING AREA BLM EVENTS

July 30 at 5 p.m. at King of Prussia Mall. Peaceful Protest related to BLM organized by High School students who attend St Paul's Baptist Church.

August 21. Community Day Celebration at the Charles A Melton Center. Included in the festivities will be the signing of a pledge (initiated by the State and local NAACP) to create a community with no tolerance for any form of discrimination.

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT



A Congolese family of seven will arrive in West Chester from Nyarugusu camp, Tanzania on July 25. They will stay with one of the members of the Welcome Team and her husband for up to three weeks while we find house for them. Welcome meals and foods are being planned.

The West Chester Area Refugee Resettlement Project Welcome Team is busy preparing for their arrival. Announcements to the Congregation were made at the July 10 Sunday service and by email. Thank you for the great response to the appeals for additional help.

Christine Bayer from **Church World Service** (CWS) Lancaster met with us, on Thursday, July 14. She reviewed the resettlement process, Welcome Team responsibilities, refugee financial assistance, and family background and culture.

Christine recommended the film, "**The Lost Boys of Sudan**". For more educational opportunities, see the [June Fellowtarian](#), p. 4.

The WCA Refugee Resettlement Project is a coalition of local religious organizations and individuals. Fifteen to twenty UCWC volunteers are involved, including three who chair committees. UCWC members and friends have also contributed about \$5,000. Look for information on the [Facebook page](#).

— Linda Sander, email: social-justice

SHARE THE PLATE

The Social Justice Committee's Share-the-Plate program raises money to give to local non-profit organizations which are trying to improve life for Chester County residents. We are pleased to announce that the share-the-plate recipient for August 21 (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 in making our Share The Plate program successful. Recent contributions reflect your continued support:

March	Safe Harbor	\$185
April	Melton Center	\$320
May	Family Center of Kennet Square MCHC	\$645
June	West Chester Food Cupboard	\$500



SHARE THE PLATE NOMINATIONS FOR 2016-17

It's not too early to start thinking about the 2016-17 STP recipients. The deadline for nominations is September 17. Click [HERE](#) for the form. Please remember the criteria: **local non-profit organizations which are trying to improve life for Chester County residents.** More information in the September *Fellowtarian*.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION RALLY

The ongoing acts of violence with guns in the past six weeks have combined multiple interests of the UU community: LGBT discrimination and hatred, the Black Lives Matter movement, and gun violence prevention. Segments of the LGBT community have decided to join the gun violence prevention coalition, bringing with them their years of experience in organizing for justice.



On Saturday, August 13, at 11 a.m., there will be a rally in Washington DC with LGBT and Gun Violence Prevention Groups combining to magnify the message. Please join us, and consider joining our Call to Action team to help advocate for our cause.

Contact Tom Buglio, UCWC liaison to the Chester County Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence (email: gun-safety), if you are interested in going.

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

Our monthly food collection is Sunday, August 7. 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 Ellertorpe at email: food-cupboard.



NEW MEMBER ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The Membership committee will honor our 24 new members, who signed the book between last fall and now, at an ice cream social at the West Goshen park pavilion, August 14, at 4:00 p.m. Because of our numbers, this is the first year to have this party in a public park as opposed to a home—plus we have lots of families with children who will enjoy the modern playground next to the pavilion. Rev. Dan and our Board are invited to get to know our new members on a more personal level.

Please continue to welcome and include in our activities: Melissa Trant-Kline and Brook Kline, Mary and Fred Matt, Maureen and Catherine McCarthy, Jeanie and Mark Matteson, Joan Odell and Dexter Chisholm, Matt Zency, Christie Judge, John Guardiani, Elizabeth and Joshua Munz, Keet Leibowitz, Anne LaCorte, Karen Mckelvey, Steffi Pugh, Rachel Lane, Aaron and Jacquie Miller, Charlott Barker and Rob Coldwell.

Also invited are several new families that have been coming regularly. If you have been attending and would like to get to know us better, please contact me at email: membership. You are most cordially invited to come.

It is a rain-or-shine party, as the pavilion is very large. If it rains, we'll have activities for the children. Thanks to Mira Tryon for securing the park and to our sponsors, Cindy and Wayne Bullaughey. See you there!

— Barbara Long



FOLK SINGING

The next **folk singing** get-together is Saturday, August 13, 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.



LUNCH GROUP

Lunch group will meet Friday, August 12, 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. The reminders are an easy way to RSVP, so we can save enough seats for everyone. If you don't have email, or if you change your mind at the last minute, come anyway. Everyone is welcome.



CONGREGATIONAL CALENDAR

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|---------------|------------|--|
| Aug 7 | Sun | First Sunday Food Collection. Lobby. See p. 5. |
| Aug 12 | Fri | Lunch Group. 11:30 a.m. Panera Bread. See above. |
| Aug 13 | Sun | Gun Violence Prevention Rally. Wahsington, DC. See p. 5.
Folk Singing. 7:30 p.m. Home of Linda and Steve Sander. See above. |
| Aug 14 | Sun | New Member Ice Cream Social. 4 p.m. West Goshen Park pavillion. See above.
Safe Harbor Dinner. 6 p.m. Email: safe-harbor . |
| Aug 16 | Tue | Board Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Office. |
| Aug 18 | Thu | R.E. Ice Cream Social. 7 p.m. Maggie Moo's in Exton. See p. 3. |
| Aug 21 | Sun | Share-the-Plate Sunday. Benefits Habitat for Humanity See p. 5. |
| Aug 27 | Sat | Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Read-Through. 2-5 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 3. |

EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:

Sundays **Sunday Morning Meditation.** 9 a.m. Downstairs. Contact email: DLFD.