

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

October 2017



NOTES FROM REV. DAN

If all goes as planned, by the time this month is over, we'll be moving into our newly renovated space at High Street. There are a great many people to thank for that, and there will be many more before it's all through. This is something that took all of us together to achieve, and we're not finished yet, nor will we be finished when we walk into our shiny new space for the first time. Even after we move in, there will be finishing touches to the building, spaces to decorate, and the ongoing process of making the space our own as we figure out just how we want to use all our new rooms and arrangements.

In the meantime, we begin as a congregation to think about what we envision for our future, now that we have come through this great accomplishment together. What do we want our congregation to look like

five or ten years down the road? What do we feel that Unitarian Universalism calls us to be?

This month, the Board of Trustees will be seeking feedback on a draft vision statement for the congregation. In crafting the statement, they sought to answer exactly those questions —

What do we envision, what do we dream, and what are we called to become?

what do we envision, what do we dream, and what are we called to become? They will take the feedback they receive and integrate it into a final draft to

present to the congregation, so that we can begin to make new plans to take us towards the vision we share. I hope that you will take the time to give your input.

Our dedication of the new building next month will be a true achievement, and a milestone for our congregation. The journey itself continues, shaped by what we envision together. I am blessed to share this journey with you.

In faith, Dan

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.

Office Hours

During renovation, Dan's office hours are by appointment, Monday through Wednesday. Thursday will remain Dan's writing day, and Friday his day off.

Community Office Hours

Periodically, Dan will host community office hours in a local bakery or coffee shop. UCWC members and friends (and all others) are invited to drop in and join Dan at any time during these hours. Look for updates on Community Office Hours in the weekly *Connections* email, and come for coffee, tea, or a snack and some conversation.



A Welcoming
Congregation

501 South High Street
West Chester PA 19382
610-692-5966
office@ucwc.org
www.ucwc.org

Sunday Services

Religious Education and Babysitting at 10 am.



We gather, aspiring to be a thriving, caring, and welcoming community that supports each person's spiritual journey, embraces diversity, challenges us to live responsibly, and is a catalyst for a just and compassionate world.

October 1 10 am
The Concept School

**THE MEASURE
OF A SOUL**

Rev. Dan Schatz

The Jewish high holy days are a time for taking stock of our lives, paying off debts, and measuring our deeds. That practice of taking account can be a deeply moving and transforming experience.

October 8 10 am
The Concept School

**SPIRITUALITY
AND UU VALUES
IN OUR VOCATION OR AVOCATION**

UCWC Congregants

It can be a challenge to touch the spiritual or support our strongly held UU values in our vocation or even our avocation. Hear from a few of your fellow congregants about how they have been able to bring their UU related values, or enhance their spiritual experience, during their work or chosen activities.

October 15 10 am
The Concept School

**THE REPUBLIC
OF HEAVEN**

Rev. Dan Schatz

"The Kingdom of Heaven" is an ancient image, and for many Unitarian Universalists, an uncomfortable one. The novelist Philip Pullman, author of *The Golden Compass*, suggests a "Republic of Heaven." What might a truly democratic cosmology look like?

This service will be followed by a Town Hall. See *Visioning the Future*, p. 3.

October 22 10 am
The Concept School

**LISTEN TO
THE STRUGGLE**

Rev. Dan Schatz

Last Spring, we joined with Unitarian Universalist congregations across the country for a teach-in on White Supremacy. The organizers of that movement have asked us to engage in a second Sunday dedicated to discussing White Supremacy. For this special sermon, Rev. Schatz will talk about systemic racism, the Black Lives Matter movement, current events, and what his father learned from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

October 29 10 am
The Concept School

ALL SOULS

Rev. Dan Schatz

Traditionally, All Souls is a day to honor our ancestors and remember the dead. This special service, our last at The Concept School, will include a ritual of remembrance. All who come are invited to bring a photograph or a memento of someone you are remembering for the altar.

Following this service, we expect to move our office and Sunday materials from The Concept School to the Congregation. Please check *Connections* for updates from the Move Out/Move In team and find out how you can help.

Unitarian Universalism holds that great good comes from wide diversity, so whoever you are, whomever you love, whatever your heritage, and from wherever your beliefs spring, we are pleased that you are here. Let us walk a while together.

From the President Visioning for the Future

A vision helps us imagine what success looks like and gives us a clearer picture of who we want to be.

Why are we here? What breaks your heart in the world? What do we owe our children?

These are just some of the questions that the Board has been reflecting on since our visioning exercise started last year. It may seem a little premature with all the renovations and construction and move in process not yet set in stone, and yet the truth is that the Board is responsible for long term strategy, and the timing is right for us. We have fiduciary responsibility for major decisions, and we have staffed several very engaged teams (Executive Team, Stay Team, MOMI Team, and a project leader) to do all the detailed work to get us back in our renovated space in early November.

A vision sets the direction for what we want to be 5-10 years from now. A vision helps us imagine what success looks like and gives us a clearer picture of what kind of environment we want to provide, and who we want to be. Some lovely visioning words we came up with to describe our community include *vibrant, welcoming, nourishing* and *inclusive*.

While each word in our longer vision was carefully chosen, there were just eight of us in the room. As a UU congregation, our

fifth principle provides for a democratic process where all have a voice with issues that concern them. So, we will hold a Town Hall, on October 15 from 11:30 to 12:30, to gather feedback from the entire congregation



on the complete vision statement. At the Town Hall, we will break into smaller groups and let the ideas flow and the red pens fly freely. The Board will gather all the recommendations, changes, and hopes to present a consolidated vision statement by January 2018.

Imagine, starting a new year, in a newly renovated building with our new minister and a new vision for our future. I will never stop feeling immensely grateful to be a part of this leadership team in these exciting times.

— Janine

Men's Group

The Men's Group will hold two meetings in October: Tuesday evening, October 3, at 7 pm, and Saturday morning, October 21, at 10 am. Both meetings will be held at the Concept School in the kitchen.

We will be talking about the perils, pains, and process of aging, and how we are individually managing the process.

Building Renovations Update

- Project completion and certificate of occupancy is scheduled for October 27.
- Sheetrock for all major rooms is up.
- The concrete for handicap ramp is in.
- The elevator mechanical system is installed.
- Exterior doors are installed including the new emergency exit doors.
- The new rear stairway giving access to lower level, street level, and social hall is completed.

★ ★ ★
**Our certificate of
occupancy is scheduled
for October 27.**



Lifespan Faith Development

When we get back into our building, we'll need to take a while to get used to what's different and be open to different ways of using the space...to think outside the box.

REmarks: Religious Education Update When What's Old Is New

Sunday, September 17, was our first foray outside with the kids in RE, and we had a blast. With maps of The Concept School's Nature Trail in hand, we set out across the catwalk over the floodplain and into the unknown land beyond, to see what we could see.

We had just heard the Akenabi story of Creation; how Gluscabi formed himself from the dust left over from when Tamaldak—The Owner—made humans. After meeting each other for the first time, Tamaldak and Gluscabi climbed to the top of a hill to survey all that Tamaldak had created: the rivers, oceans, forests, and all the living creatures. Like those two mythical entities, we too marveled at all that we saw, from huge funguses to tiny fish, from a large dragonfly to spindly daddy-longlegs, a small stream and a giant white oak tree.



During our exploration, I was reminded of something that Rev. Dan mentioned to me recently.

He observed that when we get back into our own building, we'll all need to take a while to get used to what's different about it and be open to

different ways of using the space; encouraging us to think outside the box and not just settle back into the way we've been used to doing things.

This one outdoor experience let me see the wisdom of that: new space, new activities. And it's also helpful for me to see how long it took me to be able to fully embrace what The Concept School offers us. It didn't happen immediately. I had to be in the space, and use the space. Perhaps most importantly, I had to experience the space with the children in it.

Even though next month we'll be moving back into our familiar "home," I imagine that I'll experience the same phenomenon when we're back at 501 South High Street: enough will be different, so that the space will take some getting used to. So, we'll move back

in, hold specific classes in the rooms we've designated as best for them. And then keep our eyes open for how the space really works, and make changes as needed.

— Pam Baxter

Director of Lifespan Faith Development



Halloween Mania during the Auction

Bring the kids to the UCWC Auction on Saturday, October 21, and they'll enjoy a fun Halloween Party while you bid. Starting at 2:30 pm through the end of the Auction, Monica Moran will be running games, snacks, stories, and skits. For details and to **sign up your children**, click [HERE](#), and let us know if you're coming so we can plan. Best for children four years and older. If you need childcare for younger ones, email: [auction](#). And...feel free to come in costume!

Monica can use some help running the party. If you can volunteer even for part of it, please contact her at email: [auction-kids-party](#).



The Auction Is Coming!

Our annual **Service Auction** will be October 21 at The Concept School from 3-6 pm. This is a fun and exciting social event as well as an important fund raiser for our congregation. This year we will have a silent auction, a live auction, a children's Halloween party, finger foods, door prizes, and musical entertainment. Everyone is welcome to join the fun. Invite your friends.

Doors open at 2:30 for free paddle registration. To expedite the process, you can preregister for a paddle on **online**. Once you have your paddle, visit the silent auction in the classroom hallway. It will close in segments beginning at 4 pm. The live auction begins at 4:30 in the grand room, featuring our own Mike Miller and Ed Cohle as auctioneers. They promise moments of laugh-

ter, snickering and...well, groaning. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be available in the kitchen throughout.

The auction catalog will be available about a week and a half in advance for you to begin planning your bids. The silent auction will be set up and open for bidding in the classroom hallway on the two Sundays before (October 8 and 15) as well as on the day of the auction. If you cannot come October 21, be sure to attend one of these Sundays to start your bids. The auction committee can arrange a proxy bidder for you at the auction. Contact Nancy (email: action) for details.

Our Biggest Fund-Raiser

Parents, register your children now for the Halloween party. See "REmarks" and the **party webpage** for information and to sign up. For children under 4 years of age, we will provide a sitter. Just let us know (email: action).

Auction Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed the day of the auction. This is a great way to take part in the fun even, if you are not able to do much bidding. We need people to proxy bid, help with door prizes, help close the silent auction, make coffee, clean up, and more. Please contact Nancy (email: action) if you can help.



Late Auction Donations Accepted

To be included in the auction catalog and to be considered for the live auction we need donations in by September 24. However, we gladly accept late donations up until the day before the auction. Simply visit the UCWC website's **donations page**, or complete a paper form on a Sunday. If you have questions, contact Nancy (email: action).



Fun & Fellowship

Folk Singing

The next **folk singing get-together** is Saturday, October 14 at 7:30 p.m. We meet at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. All are welcome. Bring a munchie, if you wish. Contact Steve at email: folk-singing.



Lunch Group

Lunch Group will meet Friday, October 13, 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, but if you decide at the last minute, please come anyway. Everyone is welcome.



Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

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

Hurricane Relief Efforts

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has joined with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) on a Hurricane Harvey recovery and relief fund. Half of all funds raised will go to at-risk populations served by UUSC partners, and the other half of the funds will support Unitarian Universalist congregations and members of those congregations most affected by the storm.

The UUA has also established a Hurricane Irma Recovery Fund to assist congregations in repairing any damage, and to respond to the needs of their

members and their community. UUA staff is working closely with leaders in the Association's Southern Region, to ascertain where the need is greatest and distribute funds efficiently. Click these links to donate to the [Irma fund](#) and the [Harvey fund](#).

If you prefer to donate by mail, please send your check, payable to the UUA, to UUA Gift Processing, 24 Farnsworth St, Boston, MA 02210. To support both the Irma and Harvey recovery funds, you may send one check with a note indicating how much to allocate to each fund.

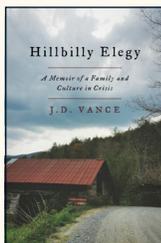
Diversity Book Group

Sunday, October 8 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Hillbilly Elegy by J. D. Vance, is a poignant account of growing up in a poor Appalachian town. Part memoir, part historical and social analysis, J. D. Vance's *Hillbilly Elegy* is a fascinating consideration of class, culture, and the American dream. Vance, who is a former Marine and Yale Law School Graduate, provides a searching and clear-eyed attempt to understand when and how "hillbillies" lost faith in any hope of upward mobility, and in opportunities to come.

At times funny, disturbing, and deeply moving, this is a family history that is also a troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large portion of this country.

We meet at Fred and Heidi Frayer's home (address in the directory)—this month only—due to renovations. Our leader will be Sandy Schaal.



Gun Violence

The Coatesville Gun Buy Back was held September 16, and 35 guns were turned in. This was a result of the joint efforts of the Coatesville School District, the Coatesville Police Department, the Coatesville Youth Initiative, local community activists, volunteers and Gun Sense Chester County combining forces to raise enough money and awareness to make the day a success. There was a fund-raising concert with UCWC's own Who Needs Nigel and eight other musical acts.

There will be a follow up meeting at Judah Ministries C.O.G.I.C on September 30 at 10 am. Elder Montez Jones will host the meeting, which will include representatives from Gun Sense Chester County and State Rep. Harry Lewis' office, as well as other community leaders. There will be an open discussion on the causes of and ideas to reduce gun violence in Coatesville in particular, and in Chester County as a whole. The meeting is open to the public. Judah Ministries is at 840 E. Chestnut Street in Coatesville.

For more information contact UCWC's liaison to Gun Sense Chester County, Tom Buglio, at email: gun-safety.

First Sunday Food Collection

Suggested Items: Spaghetti Sauce & Tomato Products

Our **monthly collection** for the **West Chester Food Cupboard** is Sunday, September 3. Look for the white collection baskets. In addition to the suggested items above, other items are welcome — just be sure that items have not passed their expiration date.

Another way to support The Food Cupboard is to put a check in the collection basket. Make your check payable to "UCWC" and write "WC Food Cupboard" in the memo.

The West Chester Food Cupboard is a 100% volunteer organization, so you know that 100% of your contribution will go to fighting food insecurity. Contact Steve Sander, email: food-cupboard.



Sanctuary Congregation Team

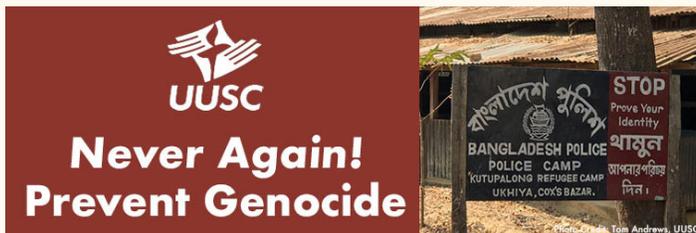
The Sanctuary Congregation Team continues to build partnerships with other local community organizations dedicated to providing a welcoming community and support for immigrants and refugees in Chester County.

Over the summer members attended meetings with the Cornerstone Christian Fellowship of West Chester, the ACLU PeoplePower/West Chester group, and IndivisibleKSQ in Kennett Square. We are working with these groups toward expanding our network to ensure that all residents of our neighborhoods are afforded basic human rights and the opportunity to pursue normal, productive lives.

In the past month, Sanctuary team members have been able to provide transportation for two individuals and one family to attend legal appointments related to immigration in Philadelphia and Newark, New Jersey. We are on deck to help staff a legal clinic sponsored jointly by Sweet & Paciorek, LLC (the law firm of team member Lindsey Sweet) and La Comunidad Hispana in Kennett Square on September 27 to help DACA recipients meet the urgent October 5 renewal deadline. If you would like to join this dedicated team, contact Kathryn Racette at email: sanctuary.

UUSC Update

Oppose Ethnic Cleansing in Burma



400,000 terrorized Rohingya have fled into neighboring Bangladesh, carrying with them horrific tales of massacre. From Tom Andrews, President and CEO of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee:

For those who manage to escape into Bangladesh, the situation is nearly as dire. Many arrive with bullet wounds and other injuries, in desperate need of medical attention. Children arrive naked, traumatized, and vulnerable to trafficking. Rice and water and medicine and sanitation kits are all in short supply.

The UUSC is racing to meet this crisis on two fronts. You can help.

- *We're pushing hard for a strong response from the U.S. government and the international community to pressure the Burmese military to stop the indiscriminate killing. Click [here](#) to help.*
- *Please make a generous contribution to UUSC's **Emergency Burma Crisis Intervention Fund**. We're working with our partners to get humanitarian aid to refugees in Bangladesh and Burma as quickly as possible. We urgently need to raise \$100,000 to get critically needed humanitarian aid to the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and Burma.*

Share-the-Plate Generosity

A study showed that babies born to Healthy Start moms are healthier.

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 October 15 (third Sunday of the month) is **Healthy Start**, a program of Maternal Child and Health Consortium of Chester County (MCHC).



Chester County is one of the wealthiest counties in the state, but many local children are at risk of serious health problems such as being born too small (under 5.5 pounds)

or too early (before 37 weeks). Studies are clear about what obstacles stand in the way of a healthy baby. MCHC Healthy Start services (in Spanish and English) target these risk factors during a woman's pregnancy and in her child's earliest years to ensure a healthy family.

An independent study of Healthy Start's first 14 years (1996-2009) showed that babies born to Healthy Start moms in our target communities were healthier than babies of moms in the same communities who were not enrolled. Thank you for your support of the Healthy Start program.

Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

Click [HERE](#) to access our
website main calendar



Give your input
to our Vision
Statement at this
Town Hall.

- Oct 1 Sun** **First Sunday Food Collection.** See p. 6.
 - Oct 3 Tue** **Examining Whiteness Workshop, Session 1.** 7 pm. The Concept School.
 - Oct 8 Sun** **Executive Team.** 6:30 pm. The Concept School Kitchen. Contact Lauren Kelly, email: program.
 - Oct 8 Sun** **Men's Group.** 7 pm. The Concept School Kitchen. See p. 3.
 - Oct 8 Sun** **Silent Auction Ongoing.** The Concept School Classroom Hallway. See p. 5.
 - Oct 8 Sun** **Safe Harbor Dinner.** 6 pm. Contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: safe-harbor.
 - Oct 8 Sun** **Diversity Book Group.** 7 pm. Home of Fred and Heidi Frayer. See p. 6.
 - Oct 9 Mon** **Religious Services Committee.** 7 pm. The Concept School. Contact Amanda Lipnack, email: religious-services.
 - Oct 10 Tue** **Program Council Meeting.** 7 pm. The Concept School. Contact Lauren Kelly, program.
 - Oct 13 Fri** **Lunch Group.** 11:30 am. Panera Bread. See p. 5.
 - Oct 14 Sat** **Folk Singing.** 7:30 pm. Home of Linda and Steve Sander. See p. 5.
 - Oct 15 Sun** **Share-the-Plate Sunday.** Benefits Healthy Start. See p. 7.
 - Oct 15 Sun** **Silent Auction Ongoing.** The Concept School Classroom Hallway. See p. 5.
 - Oct 15 Sun** **Town Hall.** 11:30-12:30. The Concept School. See *Visioning the Future*, p. 3.
 - Oct 15 Sun** **Pastoral Care Team.** 11:30 am. The Concept School.
 - Oct 15 Sun** **Examining Whiteness Workshop, Session 2.** 7 pm. The Concept School.
 - Oct 17 Tue** **Board Meeting.** 6:30 pm. The Concept School Kitchen. Contact Janine Galen, email: president.
 - Oct 18 Wed** **Religious Education Committee.** 7 pm. The Concept School. Contact Larry Lesser, email: RE.
 - Oct 21 Sat** **Men's Group.** 10 am. The Concept School Kitchen. See p. 3.
 - Oct 21 Sat** **Annual Service Auction.** 3 pm. Doors open at 2:30. The Concept School. See p. 5.
- EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:**
- Sundays** **Sunday Morning Meditation.** 9 am. The Concept School. Contact email: DLFD.
 - Most Thursdays.** **Spirit Singers Practice.** October 12, 19 and 26 at 7:15 pm. The Concept School. Contact Miriam Davidson, email: choir.

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

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Don't forget to buy
grocery store gift
cards after
Sunday services.