

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

January 2019



NOTES FROM REV. DAN

“Chop your own wood,” reads a familiar bumper sticker, “and it will warm you twice.”

While I keep the wood chopping to a minimum – usually when a tree or a branch comes down in my yard – I do love to stack a cord of wood, carry it to the house as needed, and build an evening fire in wintertime. Of course, I mumble curses and complaints while actually going out in the cold to add or subtract to the woodpile, but the truth is I’m having a wonderful time.

Stacking wood may seem like an odd activity for someone who has never been particularly athletic, but there is a kind of peacefulness in the task. Building a good woodpile takes brains as well as muscle, and to create something tall and solid is satisfying. The rhythm of log piled upon log becomes a background for wandering thoughts – a free and open form of meditation.

There are many such chores. While each of us struggles with some things we really don’t like having to do, most of us can also find comfort in a few familiar tasks. It might be cooking, or washing dishes, or ironing that we enjoy. It might be shoveling snow, or gardening, or building furniture. It

could be simple, or it could be a craft in itself. Whatever it is, it allows us to let part of our minds follow their own paths and open us to a new creativity of being.

There is more to it than that – these chores are useful. A good fire warms the winter air through more than just heat – it is a comfort, and a gift I can give to my family and friends who come to visit. The bulbs we planted last fall and the seeds we will plant this spring will add to our food and the beauty around us this spring and summer. And while it may to some seem strange to take pride in a shirt that is perfectly ironed or a path through the snow that is perfectly even, we can understand. It is the product of a different form of labor, the gift of no one but ourselves.

“I want to be with people who submerge themselves in the task,” wrote Marge Piercy. “The thing worth doing well has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.” This winter and through all the coming year, may you find new peace in simple tasks, new satisfaction in ordinary chores, and new revelations in something as common as snow or laundry. May you create the sacred from and within the mundane world.

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.

Sermon Discussion

On Sunday, January 13, the Adult RE Committee is offering an informal, facilitated conversation about the morning’s sermon. Grab your coffee and join Sandy Schaal and Harriet Singer after the service, in the meditation room, for the opportunity to deepen discussion and connection during coffee hour.



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.

Jan 6
10 am

WORK AND REST: THE RHYTHM OF OUR LIVES

Eric Sweet

In the United States, we often define ourselves and each other by how we work and what we do. Taking time for anything other than work can be difficult. How did we arrive at this attitude, and how can we achieve balance between work and "life"?

Jan 13
10 am

SO MUCH MORE

Rev. Dan Schatz

What can we give when we can only give so much?

Jan 20
10 am

MLK SUNDAY MOVED BY LOVE

Rev. Dan Schatz

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke frequently about the motivating power of love. His lessons resonate today in our personal lives and our commitment to a better world.

Jan 27
10 am

NOW WHAT? BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY

Rev. Dan Schatz

The Unitarian Universalist search for truth and meaning can take us in unexpected directions, in a sometimes unpredictable world. Please consider bringing a friend this (and every) Sunday!



They Lit Our Chalice... Time to Do the Same for Others

Just before we moved into our renovated space in November 2017, our congregation received \$40,000 from the Chalice Lighters Program to help meet the costs of construction.

Chalice Lighters is administered through the UUA's Central East Regional Group, of which we are a part. It is funded solely through the contributions of individual UUs or their family units, who pledge to contribute at least \$20 to each of no more than three "calls" a year. The calls help congregations with the costs for new or renovated buildings (such as ours), as well as costs associated with the addition of staff, the organization of new congregations, and innovative growth projects.

In addition to last year's grant, we have benefited from Chalice Lighters several times in the past. Yet with a total UCWC membership approaching 190, we currently have only 21 individual or family units enrolled.

I believe our low level of support is not due to the lack of generosity from our truly exceptional congregation. Rather, I believe that many of you are simply not aware of the program or what it requires in support.

To change that equation, I will be available after services through January to provide information and assist with sign ups. Meanwhile, I urge you to explore the program on your own [here](#). Those who sign up will receive Chalice Lighters stickers to place on their name badges.

— Flo Miller, Chalice Lighters Grant Manager

Small Group Ministries

This winter our Small Group Ministries are renewing and reforming. While newcomers are always welcome, this is an especially good time to sign up to be part of this powerful program.

Group members commit to meet twice a month for connection, conversation, and spiritual deepening with other Unitarian Universalists. Topics in 2018 ranged from "Finding Balance" to "Wonder" to "Doing Justice."

You can pick up a signup form in the lobby or email Pam Baxter (email: DLFD) with your interest and available times. For questions about the program, contact Pam or Rev. Dan (email: minister).

How Is Your Inner Leader?

UCWC is offering the UUA leadership development program, "Harvest the Power", in three units, a total of twelve free sessions between January and October. Yes, our goal is to foster and develop leadership within UCWC, but we also know that strengthening individual members strengthens our community. More information about the curriculum can be found on the [UUA website](#).

What, me, a leader? Are ready to stop reading because something inside you is shouting, "I'm not a leader." "I don't want to be a leader." "Gosh, if I attend this workshop, I'll be constantly pestered to volunteer for more and more work around the congregation?" Our conversations about leadership are for everyone – whether you want to lead from the front or from behind, whether you have experience or are a novice.

The program's three units are: Identity, Purpose, and Path. Within these, the themes focus on the self, the community, leadership, and vision. You are invited to participate in as many or as few sessions as interest you.

Look for more information in upcoming *Connections* and on posters and handouts. You can also contact or chat with any of these UCWC leaders: Heidi Frayer, Sandy Schaal, Paul Heck, Cindy Heck, Kathy Beatty, Janet Hutchison, Ed Cohle, Lou Ballester, or Julianne O'Neil, or contact the Leadership Development Team at email: leadership-development.

What is Your Legacy?

The start of the new year is a good time to revisit your financial and legacy plans. What will your legacy be? Consider planning now to accomplish your charitable, financial, and legacy goals for the long run. It won't cost you anything during your lifetime but will ensure your continuing support for causes and organizations that you care about, such as the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester.

You can name UCWC as a beneficiary, or a contingent beneficiary, of your IRA, 401K, 403B, pension or your life insurance policy. You can also name UCWC in your will. To do so, include the language, "I give _____ %, \$ _____, or the remainder of my estate to the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester." Consult with qualified counsel regarding your plans and options.

Contact the Stewardship Committee at email: stewardship to hold a preliminary conversation.

From the President

One of my favorite times of the year is the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. It's a time of reflection, a time of decompressing, and a time of preparing for what we want to create in the new year.

Each day and each new year are actually created by us. The time exists, the days and nights will occur, but until we add parts of ourselves and our lives to it, the calendar does not come alive. It may not feel like we are creating it, as we are constantly adapting to what others demand of our time but truly, a new year is a blank page waiting for us to design it, waiting for what we want to create, and full of possibilities.

In our congregation, we are creating possibilities all the time. Ideas for services like our very own adaptation of a Christmas Carol last week were made possible by our team of actors, costumes, and directors. In 2018, the Black Lives Matter committee created movie nights as a new activity for outreach and enrichment and invited members of the community. In December, the Our Whole Lives team hosted an LGBTQ panel for our 7-9th graders to meet and ask questions about sexual orientation and gender identity.

Each of these ideas was possible because we imagined it first. It was created through an energized thought process of possibilities, not obstacles. When we change our thinking to one of opening and hope and creativity, and we look at the power we have to make a difference, we can design a year filled with whatever we want. Create, Design, Imagine and Possible are all words I will be using more in my life in the new year.

Have a wonderful holiday season, and a happy and healthy New Year!

-- Janine

*For last year's words belong to last year's language.
And next year's words await another voice.
And to make an end is to make a beginning.*

— T. S. Eliot



Lifespan Faith Development

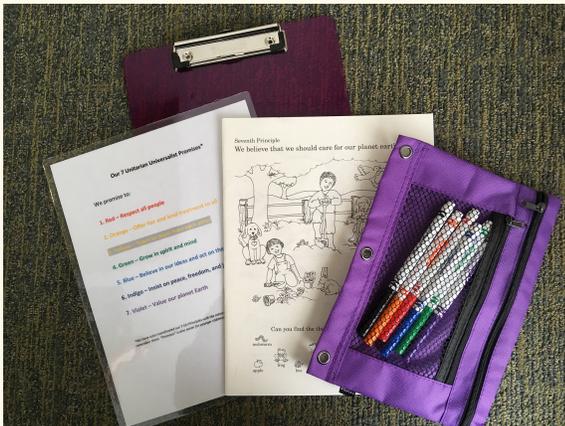
Sanctuary Art

For younger children who are upstairs during our intergen services, we have some activity clipboards set up for them to use. The clipboards are in the rainbow colors, with each focusing on one of our UU Promises (our UU Principles):

- Red** Respect all people
- Orange** Offer fair and kind treatment to all
- Yellow** Yearn to learn with and from others
- Green** Grow by exploring what is right and true in life
- Blue** Believe in your ideas and act on them
- Indigo** Insist on a just and peaceful world
- Violet** Value our planet Earth

Each clipboard contains a laminated sheet listening the Seven Promises, a pencil case with markers/colored pencils, a coloring/activity sheet related to the particular promise, and some blank paper. We'll occasionally have other coloring sheets attached.

Look for the clipboards in the gray bin in the lobby near the entrance to the sanctuary. The clipboards should be returned to the bin after the service. Kids may take home what they've colored or drawn.



REmarks

“For So the Children Come...”

For once in my life I found myself nearly speechless. I knew that on December 9 the congregation was going to have a reception to celebrate Charlie's and my wedding, but I thought it was just going to be a cake at Coffee Hour. I had no idea that there would be so many kind and thoughtful words shared, and certainly no idea that there would be gifts. Such generous gifts. Thank you!

You couldn't know it, but there was another gift that I received that morning, unplanned and intangible, for which I am also incredibly grateful.



I knew that the children would be coming upstairs at 11:00, so that they could feel that they were a part of things – and so they could be sure to get in on the cake! But I didn't know what a joy it would be to hear them bounding up the stairs from the lower level, to hear their excited voices and laughter. Once again, words fail me. How do I describe the delight I felt when I heard and felt the children's joyous, spontaneous energy? And then they stood up in front of the congregation and sang “A

The children of our congregation may not have come into the world with a guiding star, but each of them is a bright star in my universe.

Thousand Years,” which they'd only practiced that morning. Thank you, kids! Thank you, teachers!

At the early service on Christmas Eve the Intergenerational Choir will be singing “For So the Children Come.” (Words by UU religious educator Sophia Lyon Fahs and reading #616 in our gray hymnal.) It begins, “For so the children come, and so they have been coming. Always in the same way they come...” While countless children are born without prophets or angels to herald their coming, without wise men, and without a guiding star, Fahs tells us that, “each night a child is born is a holy night.”

The children of our congregation may not have come into the world with a guiding star, but each of them is a bright star in my universe. And each of them has the capacity to change the world. It was a joy to have the light of their bright, quirky, ever-changing constellation be a part of the celebration that day. The wonderful, inherent energy they brought with them was an amazing gift. Thank you also for that.

— Pamela Baxter

Director of Lifespan Faith Development

Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

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

The event planners encourage volunteers to open themselves to volunteering on projects with people from other churches or organizations in order to explore and expand community relationships.

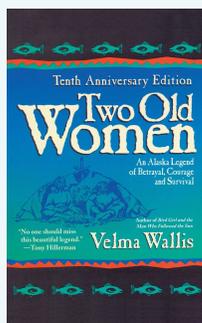
Diversity Book Group

Sunday, January 13 • 7- 8:30 • Social Rm

Our book this month is *Two Old Women: An Alaskan Legend of Betrayal, Courage and Survival* by Velma Wallis, illustrated by James Grant.

Based on an Athabascan Indian legend passed along for many generations from mothers to daughters of the upper Yukon River Valley in Alaska, this is the suspenseful, shocking, and ultimately inspirational tale of two old women abandoned by their tribe during a brutal winter famine.

In simple but vivid detail, Velma Wallis depicts a landscape and way of life that are at once merciless and starkly beautiful. In her old women, she has created two heroines of steely determination whose story of betrayal, friendship, community, and forgiveness, "speaks straight to the heart with clarity, sweetness and wisdom." Our leader will be **Debby Kern**.



MLK Day of Service Monday, January 21



Each January, we join St. Paul's Baptist Church to celebrate and honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Together we sponsor community outreach service projects throughout the greater West Chester area. St. Paul's partners with UCWC, other local churches, civic organizations, and community agencies to make a positive difference in our community. This is the 15th year that St. Paul's has hosted this event.

The overall objectives of the MLK Day of are to remind some and educate others about the life of Dr. King and his contributions to our country and our world, while meeting the needs in our community. Beginning January 1, volunteers are encouraged to review the list of available service projects at stpaulsbaptist.org and pre-register on-line for their first and second choices or interests.



The event planners encourage volunteers to open themselves to volunteering on projects with people from other churches or organizations in order to explore and expand community relationships. The following two teams are the exception to this request. UCWC is specifically encouraged to find a team of five volunteers willing to visit the elderly at local nursing homes as well as to find a UCWC team willing to assist Ed Cohle with a grocery store food drive. Each volunteer is also asked to bring a non-perishable food item to the event to support the food drive.

There will be a Rise Against Hunger food packing project (previously known as Stop Hunger Now) at UCWC.

Anyone interested is encouraged to bring a NEW book (that is related to MLK day) for any age from Pre-K through fifth grade, by January 13 and give it Sandy Schaal or Shelly Case.

We are also looking for nine volunteers to help organizationally on the morning of MLK day. Please contact **Shelly** about this.

Volunteers will gather at St. Paul's Baptist Church at 8 am on Monday, January 21. There will be a short program sharing information about Dr. King's life with service projects following. Volunteers are welcomed back to St. Paul's for lunch and a reflections program to share the events of the day.

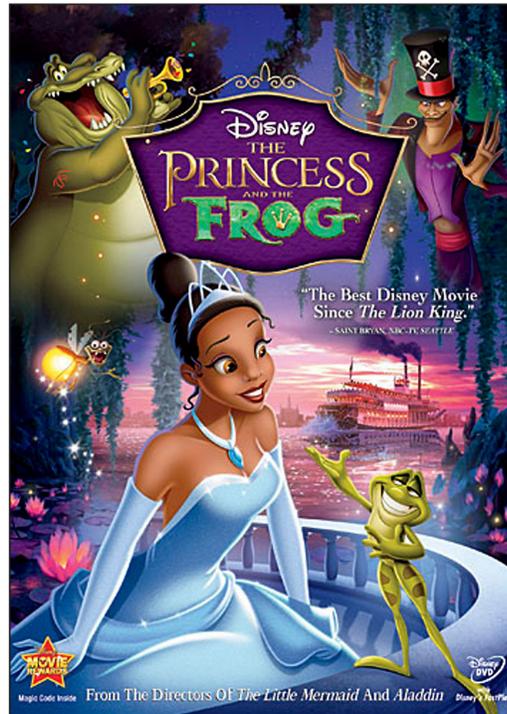
Please direct questions to email: **MLK** or speak with any of us in person.

Black Lives Matter

The Black Lives Matter Committee hosted "Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)" on Sunday, December 9. There were two presenters from SURJ, speakers from West Chester Borough and St. Paul's, as well as participants from UCWC and the greater community. A very informative discussion followed.

The next movie in our film series is Sunday, January 6, from 4 to 6 pm – *The Princess and the Frog*, a family-oriented animated Disney movie. Pizza and discussion will follow. Everyone is invited. Look for more information on upcoming films on our [web page](#).

We are also planning a UUA common read book discussion for the spring. More details will follow. The committee (email: black-lives-matter) meets monthly and is always interested in your input.



SUNDAY
JANUARY 6
4 to 6 pm

UNITARIAN
CONGREGATION OF
WEST CHESTER
501 SOUTH HIGH ST

The Princess and the Frog

A UCWC BLACK LIVES MATTER COMMITTEE
FILM FOR ALL AGES

PIZZA & DISCUSSION FOLLOWING • FREE WILL DONATIONS ACCEPTED
610-692-5966 • WWW.UCWC.ORG • BLACK-LIVES-MATTER@UCWC.ORG

Minister's Office Hours

Mondays: 1 - 3 pm
Tuesdays: By appointment
Wednesdays: 1 - 3 pm
Thursdays: Minister's writing day
Fridays: Minister's Sabbath

In addition, Dan is available by appointment Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and can be reached by email or cell phone at any time. **Please note that Dan will be out of the office from December 25 through January 1.**

Community Office Hours

Periodically, Dan will host community office hours in a local bakery or coffee shop. UCWC members and friends 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.

UUSC

Did you know that you can have a quick look at the **UUSC News page** to get honest, truthful reporting on human rights issues? From what is going on at our border with Mexico to the troubling report on Trump's Attorney General pick, consider this one of the news sources you review regularly.

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee works to form grassroots partnerships worldwide to advance human rights goals. They provide justice education, so we all learn more from a reliable source, and they help with advocacy and mobilizing so the work is meaningful and targeted.

Remember to complete your Guest At Your Table donation by mailing your donation check to UUSC, PO Box 808, Newark, NJ 07101-0808, or **donating online**, and please be sure to note that you're a member of UCWC, so donations are credited to us. Donations of \$125 or more are matched.

Our membership fell off last year, so we'd love a comeback. For more information, contact Charlot Barker, email: **UUSC**.



Share-the-Plate Generosity

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 the share-the-plate recipient for January 20 (third Sunday of the month), **Safe Harbor of Chester County**.

Safe Harbor of Chester County provides food and shelter to as many as forty homeless men and women every night in West Chester. But Safe Harbor's mission reaches well beyond food and shelter. They seek to understand each person's background, define short term action plans designed to address their problems and needs, and provide recovery opportunities. Along the way they offer support and friendship. Safe Harbor's goal is to help rebuild lives and life skills, reestablish self-esteem, and help people overcome the issues that prevent them from leading independent, productive lives.



First Sunday Food Collection

This Month's Suggested Items:

Canned Fruit

Our **monthly collection** for the **West Chester Food Cupboard** is Sunday, January 6. Look for the white collection basket in the lobby or the coat closet. In addition to the suggested items above, other non-perishable foods, personal care items, and household items are welcome—just be sure that items have not passed their expiration date.

Another important way to support The Food Cupboard is to put a check in the collection basket. This gives the Food Cupboard the flexibility to purchase items in short supply and to take advantage of sales. 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. The Food Cupboard helps people right here, right now, because, "No one should go hungry."

Contact Steve Sander, email: **food-cupboard**.



Please Note

- All cash is split 50/50.
- Checks with the memo, "Share the Plate" are split 50/50.
- Checks with charity name in the memo go 100% to the charity.
- All other checks go 100% to UCWC, unless otherwise indicated.

Thank you for your generosity to November recipient, The Baby Food Fund, in the amount of \$605.



Fun & Fellowship

Lunch Group



Lunch Group will meet Friday, January 4, 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 change your mind at the last minute, come anyway. Everyone is welcome.

Folk Singing



The next **folk singing get-together** is Friday, January 4, 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. Bring your instruments and a munchie, if you wish. Maps are in the foyer. Contact Steve at email: **folk-singing**.

Swing Dance Lesson



Convinced that dancing just isn't your thing?
Looking for a fun, easy dance to learn?
Are you simply swing-curious?

This is a great place to start!

Learn basic Jitterbug (6-count), and this year, something different:
The Madison, a line dance featured in the movie "Hairspray"

Suggested Donation: \$10 per person

All proceeds benefit the UCWC

- No partner needed
- No experience needed
- Wear comfy shoes (and with little traction, if possible)

Saturday, January 26
Unitarian Congregation of West Chester
501 South High Street
Lesson: 7pm
Dance: 8-9pm

❖ Please RSVP by January 19 to program@ucwcorg ❖

Building Team

In December, the Building Team fabricated and installed hand rails at the sanctuary stage and along the stairs to the attic. These hand rails should make it easier, and safer, to ascend and descend these steps.

The team also spent some time on our sanctuary chairs. We cleaned and polished the glides on the feet of the chairs in the attempt to eliminate one of the causes of the scratches on our newly refinished floor. Some additional work on these glides will be conducted in the spring. While we were at it, we cleaned the upholstery of many of the chairs to improve their appearance.

The list of projects continues to increase as we settle into our new building. The Building Team is always looking for people with skills in building maintenance. If you are interested and able to assist in a project, please let the team know at email: **building**.

Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

Click [HERE](#) to access our website main calendar, which includes late December events.



New Adult RE Event!

Men's Group

The Tuesday evening Men's Group will meet on January 8 at 7:00 pm downstairs in Room 4. Alan Pittenger and Dirk Troltenier will lead a discussion on "Roles in Our Private Lives". The Saturday morning Men's Group will meet on January 19 at 10:00 am downstairs in Room 4. All men are welcome.

Jan 1	Tue	Office Closed. New Year's Day.
Jan 2	Wed	Small Group Ministry Facilitators. 7-9 pm. Meditation Room. Email DLFD .
Jan 4	Fri	Lunch Group. 11:30 am. Panera Bread. See p. 8. First Friday Family Game Night. 6-9 pm. Social Room. Email: fun .
Jan 5	Sat	Folk Singing. 7:30 pm. Home of Linda and Steve Sander. Holiday Party. 5-9 pm. Home of Janet and Lowell Young. See December <i>Fellowtarian</i> , p. 7.
Jan 6	Sun	First Sunday Food Collection. See p. 7. Defenders of Democracy. 11:30 am. Room 6. Black Lives Matter Film Series: <i>The Princess and the Frog.</i> 7 pm. Sanctuary. See p. 6.
Jan 7	Mon	Executive Team. 6:30 pm. Minister's Office.
Jan 8	Tue	Program Council. 7 pm. Social Room. Email: program . Men's Group. 7 pm. Room 4. See left.
Jan 13	Sun	Adult RE Sermon Discussion. After the service. Meditation Room. See p. 1. Leadership Development Committee. 11:30 am. Rm. 6. Safe Harbor Dinner. 6 pm. Contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: safe-harbor . Diversity Book Group. 7 pm. Social Room. See p. 5.
Jan 14	Mon	Religious Services Committee. 7 pm. Meditation Room. Contact Chris Hyson, email: religious-services .
Jan 15	Tue	Board of Trustees. 6:30 pm. Social Rm. Email: president .
Jan 19	Sat	Men's Group. 10 am. Room 4. See left.
Jan 20	Sun	Spirit Singers Sing at Service. Share-the-Plate Sunday. Benefits Safe Harbor. See p. 7. Pastoral Care Ministry Meeting. 11:30 am. Room 6. Contact email: pastoral-care .
Jan 21	Mon	MLK Day of Service. 8 am. St. Paul's Baptist Church. See p. 5.
Jan 26	Sat	Swing Dance. UCWC. 6:30 pm. See p. 8.
EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:		
Sundays		Stewardship Committee. 11:30 am. Meditation Room.
Sundays		Sunday Morning Meditation. 9:00 am. Meditation Room. Contact email: DLFD .
Most Thursdays		Spirit Singers Practice. January 3, 10, and 17 at 7:15 pm. Sanctuary. Contact Miriam Davidson, email: choir .
Various Dates		Small Group Ministry (Several Active Groups). See web calendar or contact email: SGM . See p. 2.

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501 South High Street
West Chester, PA 19382

Web: www.ucwc.org
All email addresses @ucwc.org

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Janine Galen, President email: [president](#)
Pam Baxter, Director of Lifespan Faith Development email: [DLFD](#)
Steve and Linda Sander, *The Fellowtarian* Editors email: [fellowtarian](#)



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