

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

April 2019



NOTES FROM REV. DAN

Three years ago this April, I sat nervously at my dining room table, waiting for the phone to ring.

Every UU minister in search did the exact same thing; all of us were waiting for – well, quite literally waiting for a call. It came from you, and here we are, doing ministry together.

To me it's striking how much has changed during these three years, and how much hasn't. Our building is renewed, transformed into the sacred space we've long known we deserved. Our calendar is filled with interest groups, Small Group Ministries, and social justice projects. Our Sunday RE classes are as packed, joyful, and meaningful as they've ever been. And we're planning a bunch of new adult education classes beginning next fall. At the same time, we're still the congregation that loves to laugh and sing together, spend time with each other, care for one another, learn together, and grow together.

In many ways, we are what we have always been, only more so. In other ways, we are changing, as we always have, and every congregation does. We've said goodbye to old friends and begun to get to know new ones. We've found new ways of doing some things.

Together we created a vision statement which emphasizes congregational growth, inclusion, and spiritual deepening. We're beginning to talk about adding a second service on Sunday mornings and reaching out to the community in new ways, so that people know who we are, what we value, and how to find us. Some of the change will be instantly rewarding, some less so – but every conversation I've had has been filled with grace and hopefulness.

Three years ago, when the phone rang, I knew I would be turning to a new path, and big change. What I didn't know was just how rewarding that change would be.

Here's to the way forward!
In faith, Dan

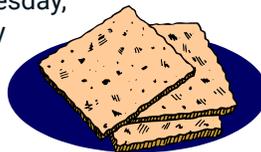
Our Mission

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.

Passover Seder

Passover is the Jewish remembrance of the exodus from Egypt and a time to celebrate freedom and bring our attention to justice-making in the world. We will celebrate Passover with an intergenerational Seder on Wednesday, April 24, at 6 pm in the sanctuary. Our Seder will be followed by a potluck – please come and enjoy. All ages are welcome, and you do not need to have any experience with a Passover Seder to enjoy this one.

Please RSVP and sign up to help set up, bring food (Kosher for Passover is ideal.), or clean up – Sign up online [here](#), or write to Susan Batchelor at email: fun.



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.

**Apr 7
10 am**

**DIGGING DEEP:
POETRY SERVICE**

Sarah Hyson

Often the poet's words come from deep within and have the ability to reach deep within us and touch our hearts. Sometimes we need to dig to find those words that express what we need to say. Come listen to the Annual Poetry Service, as our members and friends bring forth their words and those of their favorite poets.

**Apr 14
10 am**

IN THE WILDERNESS

Rev. Dan Schatz

In-between places can be anxiety producing – but they can also be exciting and creative. As we move close to the season of Passover, how will we make our time “in the wilderness” sacred?

This service will be followed by a Town Hall. Please plan to stay and attend.

**Apr 21
10 am**

SAYING YES TO LIFE

Rev. Dan Schatz

In the season of Easter and nature's rebirth, we celebrate the rebirth of spirit in many forms.

**Apr 28
10 am**

PROMISES

Rev. Dan Schatz

In our ceremony of child dedication, we make many promises to these and all children. What are the promises all of us give to children and to society? This service will include a ceremony of dedication for babies and young children.



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.

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.

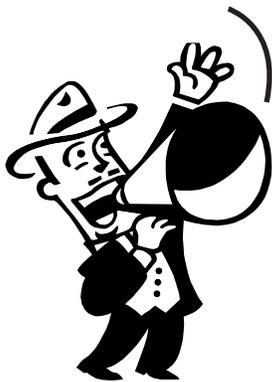
This congregation is on a journey towards anti-racism. I believe that our journey will be dramatically different, if we can double the number of people who attend Jubilee every year.

Men's Group

The Tuesday evening men's group will meet on April 2 at 7 pm downstairs in Room 4. Erach Patel and Stephen Johnson will lead a discussion on "End-of-Life Preparations".

The Saturday morning men's group meeting is April 20 from 10 to 11:30 am, also in room 4.

All men are welcome. Contact Dirk Troltenier at email: mens-group.



From the President

I spent a weekend in March at the Jubilee Anti-Racism workshop held at Main Line Unitarian Church with two other members. There were only 20 of us total, and four were people of color, which I felt really made a difference in the personal sharing part of the conversation. People came from UU groups in York, Cherry Hill, Germantown, Restoration, and Main Line.



We are all intellectually against racism, but probably very few of us have actually spend a weekend sharing our beliefs and listening to others point of view. Aside from all the deeply personal stories, there were several concepts that I took from that weekend that resonated in a very new way.

The first is the concept of each of us as "gatekeepers" in some role. Whether we are teachers, or writers, or project leaders, or customer service representatives, we have the power to decide what passes for "good and right", and who gets access to the things we manage. We decide who gets the help they need, and who is turned away; who is given a waiver of the rules, and who is held to the tightest interpretation.

We might work for large organizations, but we personally have decision making power on what gets done quickly, and what can wait until another day. These decisions affect people's lives, and our UU values can guide us much more than some procedures manual.

Another concept was an exercise about the history of racism and the history of the resistance. During our first exercise, I had very little to add to a 400-year timeline of resistance, and that felt odd for me. I realized that I only knew the racism events and the civil rights "wins" and not the resistance movement side of it.

When I shared with the group during our debrief, the facilitator explained that they don't often teach the minority resistance in history class, because it would encourage more resistance. That is certainly something I never thought about.

This congregation is on a journey towards anti-racism. I believe that our journey will be dramatically different, if we can double the number of people who attend Jubilee every year.

— Janine

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

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West Chester, PA 19382

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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.

Lifespan Faith Development

Volunteering, suggested the author, is when you're helping an organization other than your own.

Women's Retreat

Join us for a weekend of nourishment for the soul Friday April 26, through Sunday, April 28, at Temenos Retreat Center. We will join together in laughter, sharing meals, and creating deeper connections through laughter and relaxation.

Registration forms available now. Costs depend on room sharing choices. Contact Janine Galen, email: [president](#).

Small Group Ministries

Newcomers are always welcome to our Small Group Ministry program. Group members commit to meet twice a month with other Unitarian Universalists for connection, conversation, and spiritual deepening.

Topics in 2018 ranged from "Finding Balance" to "Wonder" to "Doing Justice."

Contact Pam Baxter (email: [DLFD](#)) with your interest and available times. For questions about the program, contact Pam or Rev. Dan (email: [minister](#)).

REmarks You Say "Tomato"

I recently read an online article about volunteerism in churches. Nothing new there; the internet is full of advice on how to find and retain volunteers.

But this article wasn't the usual lament about a lack of volunteers and how to do more effective recruiting for committees, task forces, teachers, etc. It was about the word "volunteer" itself and the idea that we rethink our language around the helpful work we do in and for our congregations.

Volunteering, suggested the author, is when you're helping an organization other than your own. For instance, it's volunteering when we turn out to paint rooms at the Melton Center, show up on the MLK Day of Service, or serve meals at Safe Harbor. But when you do service for your own congregation, says the author, it's not volunteering — it's ministry.

Some might balk a bit at that idea; isn't ministry what the minister does? Sure. But ministry isn't reserved just for the actual minister. Whenever and however we serve at UCWC, it's a ministry, and there are so many wonderful and important ways to serve.

Over the next month or so, the members of the Religious Education Committee and I will be seeking members and friends to serve in our classrooms next year. We hope that you will seriously consider serving our congregation and our children this way, and that when you're asked, the answer will be "Yes!"

— In faith,
Pam Baxter

Director of Lifespan Faith Development



Child Dedication April 28

Our congregation is planning a child dedication ceremony as part of our service on Sunday, April 28. The ceremony is a simple one, in which the congregation promises to care for these and all children and their parents, and in which the child is given a flower and a blessing.

If you have a baby or young child you would like to participate in the service, please talk to Rev. Dan Schatz or Pam Baxter. We will need to know the child's full name, parents' names, and the child's date and place of birth.

“Purpose”

Unit 2 of Harvest the Power Workshops

It’s not too late to join the conversation. How can our approach to leadership affect how well we live our principles, as individuals and as a congregation? In our continuing “Harvest the Power: Developing Lay Leadership” workshop series we are searching

for answers to this question. Unit 2, “Purpose: What Ends Do we Serve?” begins on Sunday afternoon, April 7. Dates, times, topics, and themes for the Unit 2 workshops are listed in the chart.

Date	Topic	Theme
Sunday, April 7 4-6 pm	Fated to be Free	Personal Journey as Leader
Sunday, April 14 4-6 pm	Caring for Ourselves and Others	Interaction between leaders and the community they serve
Sunday, May 19 4-6 pm	Integrity	Healthy leadership presence and qualities
Sunday, June 9 4-6 pm	Turning Points and Moments of Grace	Leading with propose and vision

You are invited to participate in as many of the sessions as interest you. More information about the curriculum can be found on the [UUA website](#).

Registration for Unit 2 is now open. You can register by filling out the form available in the envelope beneath the poster in the Social Hall or at the [UCWC website](#). Look under “What’s Ahead” in the lower left-hand corner of the main page.

If you want more information you can contact or chat with any one of these fellow UCWC leaders: Heidi Frayer, Sandy Schaal, Paul Heck, Cindy Heck, Janet Hutchison, Ed Cohle, Lou Ballester, Cathy Vogt, Jim MacFadyen, or Lori Ratajczak or email the Leadership Development Team at email: [leadership-development](#).

Harvest the Talent



Following the service on Sunday, May 5, you are invited to join the Leadership Development Team along with all our UCWC committees as we host our first Activity Fair. This is your chance to explore and discover the many opportunities available to you to get involved with UCWC.

Being on a committee or team, or helping with an event or service project, are all ways to make deeper connections with fellow members and friends while giving back to our UCWC community. When more people are involved, our congregation becomes stronger and more vibrant.

Continuing the Leadership Development and Stewardship theme of “Harvest the Power”, we want to demonstrate ways to “Harvest the Talent” of the amazing people at UCWC.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Cathy Vogt or the Leadership Development Team at email: [leadership-development](#).



Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

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

Defenders of Democracy



Defenders of Democracy successfully presented our **Resolution to Strengthen our Democracy** – which is based upon the **American Anti-Corruption Act** – to West Chester Borough Council. With the help of Council President Diane LeBold, on March 21 Council voted 7-0 for our resolution.

We are following the model of **RepresentUs.org**, lobbying our local government bodies to fix the problems and make our democracy work for all.

Our next target group is the Chester County Commissioners. Please join us. Our next meeting is April 7 (first Sunday of the month). Get on our email list by contacting Tom Buglio at email: **democracy**.

Peace Walkers Coming to UCWC April 3

We, along with the West Chester Peace Coalition, will host 6-10 peace walkers on April 3. The Walk for a New Spring is an annual pilgrimage initiated by the New England Peace Pagoda of Leverett, Massachusetts. For the last 18 years, a group of Buddhist monks, nuns, and friends have journeyed from Massachusetts to Washington DC advocating for peace.

They plan to arrive at UCWC between 3 and 4 pm. We will share a primarily vegetarian meal at 6:30. After the welcoming and dinner, we gather – as we have in the past – for a discussion with our guests. All who are interested are cordially invited to attend and bring a dish for the potluck dinner. The evening generally concludes no later than 9 pm.

In addition, the peace walkers will need overnight accommodations. We are looking for a few more homes to host a walker overnight. They will need to be returned to UCWC by 8 am Thursday morning for a light breakfast at UCWC. People are invited to accompany the walkers as they start out in the morning.

Please contact Shelly Case (email: **peace-walkers**) if you plan to attend, are willing to bring a dish to share, or if you are interested in hosting a walker overnight in your home.



Share-the-Plate Generosity

The Social Justice Committee's **Share-the-Plate program** raises money to give to local non-profit organizations that are working to improve life for Chester County residents. We are pleased to announce that the Share-the-Plate recipient for April 21 (the third Sunday of the month) is **Maternal and Child Health Consortium of Chester County (MCHC)**.

The overarching goals of MCHC's program are to improve birth outcomes by providing prenatal and postnatal home-visiting as well as pre- and postnatal socio-emotional strengthening support, parenting education, and health education; reduce health disparities by providing insurance and benefit enrollment assistance and food stability for children and their families; ensure children are prepared for kindergarten and have the tools to succeed in school and beyond, and that families of children entering kindergarten are engaged in their child's education and in their communities.



Please note:

- All cash is split 50/50.
- Checks with the memo, "Share the Plate" are split 50/50.
- Checks with the 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 the February recipient, Open Hearth, in the amount of \$580.

Black Lives Matter

Members of the BLM committee are attending various workshops and trainings relating to racial equality in order to bring more awareness to our congregation. Please look at our [web page](#). To talk to a member, look for someone wearing a name tag with the yellow and black ribbon.

Our film series continues with *I Am Not Your Negro* on Sunday, April 7, at 7 pm. in the sanctuary. All are welcome. A free-will donation is appreciated.

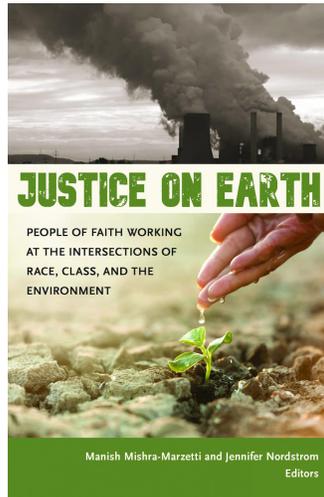
A UUA Common Read book discussion of *Justice on Earth* will be held Wednesday, April 17, at 7 pm. Loaner books are available. Please contact Mira Tryon (email: black-lives-matter) for a copy.



WEDNESDAY
APRIL 17 • 7 PM

UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF WEST CHESTER
501 SOUTH HIGH STREET • 610-692-5966

*Join us for a
book discussion
of the UUA
Common Read*



JUSTICE ON EARTH

PEOPLE OF FAITH WORKING

AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF

RACE, CLASS, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Jennifer Nordstrom, Editors

SPONSORED BY THE UCWC BLACK LIVES MATTER COMMITTEE

Books are available for members and friends of UCWC to borrow.
See Myra Tryon after services or contact black-lives-matter@ucwc.org.



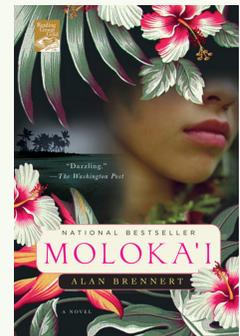
Diversity Book Group

Sunday, April 14 7:00-8:30 pm Social Room

Our book this month is *Molokai* by Alan Brennert. It is the story of a seven-year-old Hawaiian girl who is diagnosed with leprosy in the 1890's and sent to Kalaupapa, the quarantined leprosy settlement on the island of Molokai.

This book is wonderful historical fiction that spans her entire life in a heart-warming and life affirming story. Both educational and interesting, it is a Target Book Club pick. Pat Shorten will be our leader.

Questions? Contact Debby at or Lorrie McKinley at email: diversity-book-group.



Gun Violence Prevention

Our hearts are heavy for our Muslim brothers and sisters and all peoples of New Zealand who suffered unspeakable violence from a man spewing white supremacist hatred through the nozzle of a semi-automatic rifle. Once again, as in Charleston and Pittsburg, worshipers were gunned down because of bigotry and easy access to deadly firearms, and people of all faith traditions grieve.

We extend our support to our Muslim friends and neighbors here in the Chester County area.

As a member of UUPLAN, we will continue to lobby Senator Pat Toomey to cosponsor S42, Universal Background checks. In addition, we will lobby for ERPO, the Extreme Risk Protection Bill, which has the best chance of passage this session in the Pennsylvania Assembly.

We continue to have our monthly **Gun Violence Prevention** teleconference on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, and all are welcome to join. Please email Tom Buglio (email: gun-safety) to get on the contact list.



UUSC Update Celebrating Our Partners' Human Rights Impacts in 2018



The **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee** advances human rights through grass roots collaborations. This past year, nearly every week brought new, often unprecedented rights violations and additional burdens on vulnerable communities. And yet, time and again, our fearless partners helped affected communities assert their rights, challenge oppressive systems, and make significant human rights impacts in UUSC's core focus areas:

- Migrant Justice in the United States and Central America
- Climate Justice in the United States and the Pacific
- Humanitarian Crisis Response and Recovery in the United States, Burma, and Haiti.

Click [here](#) to read about what UUSC and our partners did to address these issues in 2018.

Thank you to everyone who supports UUSC. Everyone who donates is a member for a year. Join or renew your membership [here](#). To check whether your membership is current and listed as from UCWC, contact Charlot Barker or Linda Sander, email: uuscc.



First Sunday Food Collection

**This Month's Suggested Items: Sides
(Stuffing, Potatoes, Pasta,
Rice-a-Roni, Mac & Cheese, etc.)**

Our **monthly collection** for the **West Chester Food Cupboard** is Sunday, April 7. Look for the white collection basket in 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.



Fun & Fellowship

Lunch Group

Lunch Group will meet Friday, April 19, 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.

Folk Singing

The next **folk singing get-together** is Friday, April 19, 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**.

Pete Seeger 100th Birthday Concert

Come remember the iconic Unitarian Universalist folksinger Pete Seeger in a very special concert at our congregation on the hundredth anniversary of his birth – Friday, May 3, at 7:30 pm. The evening will feature the Philadelphia folk duo Two of a Kind, folksinger Doug Morris, our own Dan Schatz, and special guests, including Jim Musselman of Appleseed Records.

The suggested donation is \$20 (more if you can, less if you can't, and no one turned away), with proceeds shared between our congregation and the West Chester Green Team environmental coalition.



100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONCERT

MAY 3 • 7:30 PM

UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF WEST CHESTER

501 SOUTH HIGH STREET



DAN SCHATZ



DOUG MORRIS



TWO OF A KIND

A very special concert to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of folk singer Pete Seeger.

Suggested Donation \$20

More if you can. Less if you can't. No one turned away.

Proceeds shared between the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester and the

West Chester Green Team Environmental Coalition

UCWC.ORG • 610-692-5966 • OFFICE@UCWC.ORG

Special Guests including Jim Musselman of Appleseed Records

Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

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



Don't miss the Town
Hall on April 14. Details
to come.

Apr 1	Mon	Executive Team. 6:30 pm. Minister's office.
Apr 2	Tue	Men's Group. 7 pm. Room 4. See p. 3.
Apr 3	Wed	Peace Walkers Come to UCWC. See p. 6. Small Group Ministry Facilitators. 7-9 pm. Meditation Room. Email DLFD .
Apr 4	Thu	Peace Walkers Breakfast. See p. 6.
Apr 5	Fri	First Friday Family Game Night. 6-9 pm. Social Room. Email: fun .
Apr 7	Sun	First Sunday Food Collection. See p. 8. Leadership Development Team. 11:30 am. Room 4. Defenders of Democracy. 11:30 am. Room 6. See p. 6. Harvest the Power Leadership Development Training. 4 pm. Social Room. See p. 5. Black Lives Matter Film Series: I Am Not Your Negro. 7 pm. Sanctuary. See p. 7.
Apr 8	Mon	Religious Services Committee. 7 pm. Meditation Room. Contact Chris Hyson, email: religious-services .
Apr 9	Tue	Program Council. 7 pm. Social Room. Email: program .
Apr 14	Sun	Town Hall. 11:15 am. Sanctuary. Leadership Development Team. 11:30 am. Room 6. Path to Membership Session 2. 11:45-1:00. See <i>March Fellowtarian</i> , p. 5. Harvest the Power Leadership Development Training. 4 to 6 pm. Social Room. See p. 5. Safe Harbor Dinner. 6 pm. Contact Rick London, email: safe-harbor .
Apr 16	Tue	Diversity Book Group. 7 pm. Social Room. See p. 7. Board of Trustees. 6:30 pm. Social Room. Contact email: president .
Apr 17	Wed	Black Lives Matter Book Discussion. <i>Justice on Earth.</i> 7 pm. Social Room. See p. 7.
Apr 19	Fri	Lunch Group. 11:30 am. Panera Bread. See p. 9. Folk Singing. 7:30 pm. Home of Linda and Steve Sander. See p. 9.
Apr 20	Sat	Men's Group. 10 am. Room 4. See p. 3.
Apr 21	Sun	Share-the-Plate Sunday. Family Center Maternal and Child Health Consortium of Chester County. See p. 6. Pastoral Care Ministry Meeting. 11:30 am. Room 6. Contact email: pastoral-care .
Apr 24	Wed	Seder Dinner. 4 pm. Sanctuary and Social Room. See p. 1.
Apr 26-28	Fri-Sun	Annual Women's Retreat. See p. 4.

EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:

Sundays	Sunday Morning Meditation. 9:00 am. Meditation Room. Contact email: DLFD .
Most Thursdays	Spirit Singers Practice. April 4, 11 and 25 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. 4.