

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

June 2019



NOTES FROM REV. DAN

"I've been a Unitarian Universalist my whole life, but never had a name for it."

I've heard variations on that sentence for pretty much my entire life. "I've always been looking for something like this." "I had no idea a religion like Unitarian Universalism was possible." "I never knew there was a faith that would love somebody like me." Sometimes it feels like Unitarian Universalism must be the best kept secret in religion.

There are obvious reasons for this. We honor diversity, and we're not interested in converting people who are perfectly happy in their own faiths. Other people sometimes have assumptions about religion that don't apply to us at all. Conversations about religion can sometimes feel awkward to begin with, so it's easy for us to assume that other people wouldn't want to hear it.

The truth is there are a great many who have been waiting years to hear about us. Some are looking for a religion where they don't have to leave any part of themselves at the door, where they can explore spiritual truth and practice without having to accept

somebody else's creed, where human dignity is valued, and the ethic of love is real.

Some are going through hard times and need a community that offers solace without judgment. Some are families seeking a supportive and open-minded congregation in which to raise their kids. Some are looking for a religious community that can work for justice, help them grow, and celebrate life all at the same time.

I believe Unitarian Universalism is important. I believe we save lives, and I know we make lives better. I believe our message is exactly what the world needs right now, and I think it's time to tell the world about it.

One of the ways we'll be spreading our message this summer is by joining community events like West Chester's "Swingin' Summer Thursdays," community fairs, and other special days. The first "Summer Thursday" is June 6, and we'll be there with a table, some "kindness rocks" for kids of all ages to make, friendly faces, and information about who we are. I hope you'll sign up to help or stop by and join us for a while.

We have something wonderful to share. Let's get the message out!

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.



Minister's Summer Schedule

During the Summer, Dan's Office Hours will be by appointment. If you have an immediate need, please contact him on his cell phone at 484-653-5011.

He will be away from the office from June 17 through July 7.



A Welcoming
Congregation

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

Sunday Services



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.

Men's Group

The Tuesday evening men's group will meet on June 4 at 7 pm downstairs in Room 4. The topic will be "Round-robin candidate presentation". All men are welcome. The Saturday morning men's group is taking the summer off, returning in September. Contact Dirk Troltenier at email: mens-group.

Jun 2 10 am

ASK THE MINISTER

Rev. Dan Schatz

For the past month, our minister has been collecting questions from you. This morning he will give some answers. The service is earlier than usual this year, so please make sure to get questions in by Sunday, May 26.

Jun 9 10 am

RE SUNDAY: GROWING UP UU

Pam Baxter, DLFD

"RE Sunday" is the annual service in which we celebrate classes and recognize teachers and other volunteers. This year, we'll explore the different ways that we wove our UU Principles into Sunday morning classes—digging deeper into our seven UU Principles through stories, becoming Agents of Change for issues that are important to us, and discovering that living the principles affects our relationships throughout Our Whole Lives. The morning will also include the Intergen Choir and Chimes Choir. We hope you will join us in celebrating our students and teachers. *And please plan to stay after the service for the Annual meeting.*

Jun 16 10 am

**YE OLDE
HYMN SING**

**Mihcael Werner and
Jason Shaefer-Valerius**

Please join us as Michael Werner and Jason Shaefer-Valerius lead us in songfest of our favorite hymns. In what has become a favorite service for many, each year for the past eighteen years we have explored our hymnal and gathered together to sing our favorite hymns. We've given up trying to stump the pianist and hymn leader; now we focus our energy and voices on old favorites, new melodies, and general good fun as we celebrate our congregational voice. Bring your hymnal and a list of hymns which you want us to sing, a sense of humor, a warmed-up voice, and be a part of the largest pick-up choir in Chester County.

Jun 23 10 am

**FROM PAKISTAN
TO CHESTER COUNTY**

Bushra Qureshi

Growing up in Pakistan, to Bushra Qureshi America was where Mohammed Ali reigned and Michael Jackson sang, where Hollywood movies were made, and Disney made dreams come true — a true melting pot where all could live the American Dream. Bushra will tell us how — after almost two decades here and as a Muslim in Chester County — she now has a more balanced and realistic view.

Bushra has been on the Board of the Islamic Society of Chester County for the last eight years and is currently the head of the Interfaith Committee, as well as being involved with activities for women and children in her community.

Jun 30 10 am

FROM HUGHES TO HIP HOP

Patricia DeBrady

From early America to modern hip hop, Black poets have played an important, but often underrepresented and underappreciated role. Special guest Patricia DeBrady brings them to the fore at UCWC.

Patricia DeBrady has presented/taught African and African American literature to classes, communities, and gatherings of interested others for the past 40 years. Her UU membership of more than fifty years provides a particular understanding of black presence within predominantly white cultures. Being party to the struggle that had potential to rive the UUA has provided her with some insight (however contestable) about the issue of American diversity. She is a member of the UU Church of the Restoration.

Annual Meeting Sunday, June 9

Eligible Members, please watch for your official notice of our Annual Meeting, slated for Sunday, June 9, following the Service in the Sanctuary.

Business on the agenda so far includes:

- Approve a slate of candidates for Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee
- Approve a change to the Bylaws regarding the Committee on Ministry membership and tenure
- Approve UCWC's budget for fiscal year 2019-2020

Details will accompany the official notice.

Ask the Minister Service: Submit Your Questions by May 26

Is there something you'd like to know about theology, UU history, world religions, or sacred writings? Do you want to know what your minister thinks about an issue that you care about? Or do you have questions about ministry itself?

Through May 26, Dan will take questions on whatever topics you'd like to hear about. You can email your questions to Dan (**email: minister**) or write them on a card and put them in the question box in the lobby.

All questions will be read anonymously, though you may wish to leave your name, so Dan can contact you for clarification. On Sunday, June 2, Dan will open the box and answer the questions.

From the President

June is here and as I stand at the polls as a candidate, I almost forgot about my very last *Fellowtarian* article as your board president.

There's so much to reflect upon over the last four years. When I started on the board, Rev. Bill Zelazny was our interim minister. We were worried about how to simultaneously accomplish a ministerial search process and a capital campaign, both of which seemed overwhelming.

Rev. Dan's installation and our changes to be a more strategic board were both inspirational in many ways. As president, I learned to listen to many and consider which capable staff member or committee could handle the concern. The board began a process of creating a covenant and visioning with the congregation.

Our major renovation project was another challenge that we approached with enthusiasm and engagement and, of course, some heavy equipment. Moving out to The Concept School and back into our home in just five months was quite a feat.

Finally, my gratitude to all of you is immeasurable. Your kindness, patience, and trust in me as been well beyond what I expected. You may never know the healing that you brought to me by letting me find my way, while I was feeling otherwise without a purpose. To the many board members who served in the last four years, I truly appreciate all your hard work, as we learned how to look towards the future and leave the daily operations to the executive team.

Our final annual meeting for the year is Sunday, June 9. We will have a new president, two new board members, and hopefully a budget that can accomplish all our needs.

I'm looking forward to joining you in the seats on Sunday, at potlucks, at Black Lives Matter events, and in my small group ministry. You have prepared me for a larger role in the community on the Downtown School Board where my UU values will help every student, and again I thank you.

— Janine



Coming September 8 Annual Fall "Welcome Back" Picnic



Lifespan Faith Development

2019 Summer Sundays June 23 through August 25

Introducing our new UU Badges Program! Join us for social action projects, block clean-ups, Readers Theater, and other activities related to our seven Unitarian Universalist Principles.

Summer Ice Cream

Tue Jun 18 ♦ Wed Jul 17 ♦ Thu Aug 15

The RE Committee invites you to our traditional of Ice Cream Socials.

These are informal opportunities for UWCW 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 pm. 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. Contact Pam at **email: DLFD**.



Small Group Ministries

Small Group Ministry is a way for us to connect with each other and share in each other's lives while discussing everything from "friendship" to "science and spirituality." Currently, we have five groups running at different times and on different days. To sign up for a group, contact Pam Baxter at **email: DLFD**.

REmarks—Religious Education Update Growing up UU

What we do in UU children's religious education is kind of paradoxical. We try to teach our kids about Unitarian Universalism and how to "live UU." At the same time, we're aware that the very nature of Unitarian Universalism and our Fourth Principle of promoting "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning" means that children can decide which beliefs are right for them—and this includes deciding that they want to be Christian, or Buddhist, or nothing.

This leads to another paradox, since deciding to be non-UU is completely UU. And since we believe in "deeds, not creeds," does it matter if our kids decide that they're not Unitarian Universalist if they act like they are? My son, for instance, has that Millennial stance of non-attachment to many things even while embracing them. He attends the Unitarian church in his city, but in a somewhat casual, occasional way. I have the satisfaction of knowing that he's UU, even if he doesn't identify as such. Religious affiliation—or not—just isn't important to him. Yet that church is his home. And that satisfies me. I want to know that our kids are growing up with a sense of their individual, personal spirituality and also have a place where they can feel part of and connected to a faith community. Both those things are important.



So, what did we do this past year to help our children along that path? In our Sunday morning religious education (RE) classes, our curricula centered on exploring aspects of our seven Unitarian Principles. With our youngest children (PreK through second graders) in Spirit Play, our weekly stories focused on respecting each other, offering fair and kind treatment to all, learning with and from each other, growing in spirit and mind, believing in and acting on our ideas, insisting on a peace, freedom, and justice for all, and valuing and taking care of the Earth.

Our "Agents of Change" (third through sixth graders) took steps in learning how to make a difference in the world when it comes to changing existing policy. They selected a cause to work on — the need for and benefits of more time spent out-of-doors — then researched the science behind it, created a petition, and made a video summarizing their thoughts. This was a real-life effort and they will be taking petitions to their schools.

Finally, in the Our Whole Lives class, our seventh, eighth, and ninth graders learned the importance of respecting themselves and their intimate partners (our First Principle's call to respecting the inherent worth and dignity of every person) as they look ahead to stepping into deeper relationships. This is such vital grounding for these teens who will soon be young adults.

We'll be celebrating these accomplishments at our annual RE Sunday on June 9. We'll also recognize all our volunteer teachers and facilitators. Please join us.

— Pam 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.

UUPLAN Gun Violence Prevention Supports Rally and Walk in Media

Many people and good organizations are working to reduce gun violence, including **Delco United for Sensible Gun Policy**.

With the support of UUPLAN Gun Violence Prevention, Delco United is organizing a rally and walk on Saturday, June 1 during National Gun Violence Prevention Week at 1 pm at Second Baptist Church of Media, 400 E. State Street. All are welcome.

The fact that gun violence can happen anywhere, at any time – including right here in Chester County – has become the reality we will continue face, as long as it is easy for dangerous people to get their hands on deadly weapons.

– Tom Buglio, UUPLAN Gun Violence Prevention (email: gun-safety)



Defenders of Democracy



Tom Buglio, Charlot Barker, Rep. Chrissy Houlahan, Rev. Kate Rohde, David Cohen

On May 3, four members of Defenders of Democracy had the pleasure of meeting with Congresswoman, Chrissy Houlahan at her West Chester office. We had the chance to tell her about our congregation, and the goals of Defenders of Democracy in the areas of pro-democracy/anti-corruption principles based upon the Constitution.

We applauded her for her active participation in getting bill HR1 passed in the House, similar to the American Anti-Corruption Act, which provides our blueprint for lobbying our legislators. She is very much committed to these policies.

Rep. Houlahan has helped start a caucus of new House members who come from a military background and want to work in a bipartisan way to get good bills passed. She is very much an advocate for actionable policy and wants to work to help heal the great partisan divide. She now knows that she has an ally in Defenders of Democracy.

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 June 16 (third Sunday of the month), the **Legal Committee of IndivisibleKSQ**.

The Legal Committee of IndivisibleKSQ supports the immigrant community of Chester County, providing education on legal rights and community resources and financial support for basic needs including rent, food, and transportation, as well as

making connections with other organizations that might assist.

Please note the following as you prepare your donation:

- All cash is split 50/50.
- All checks should be made out to UCWC:
 - ◆ Checks with "Share the Plate" in the memo 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.

First Sunday Food Collection

This Month's Suggested Items: Pasta and Rice

Our **monthly collection** for the **West Chester Food Cupboard** is Sunday, June 2. 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.

UUSC Update

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) doesn't play it safe. They call out practices that are counter to our UU beliefs and hold elected officials accountable for their actions. On the UUSC web site right now South Carolina **Senator Lindsey Graham** and the **Trump administration** are called out. UUSC gives you opportunities to take specific and meaningful actions when people aren't being treated humanely, justly, with dignity.



Take just a moment to see and take action yourself:

- **Tell Congress: Dreamers, DED and TPS holders deserve a legislative solution**
- **Call on Congress: Do not fuel a humanitarian crisis in Honduras**
- **Take the Pledge: Commit to Combat the Climate Crisis**

Visit the **UUSC Initiatives page** to learn more about how UUSC fights for UU values around the world.

Click [here](#) to help support UUSC's work. Any amount makes you a member for a year.

Thank you.

— Charlot Barker and
Linda Sander, email: uusc

Fun & Fellowship

Like to Hike?

Join Fun and Fellowship for a hike at the Ches-Len Preserve in Coatesville on Saturday, June 1. We will meet at the Verizon lot in West Chester at 8:45 am to carpool and caravan. If you would rather meet us at Ches-Len, plan on being at the parking lot next to the Newlin Township building on Rt 162 by 9:30.

Wear sturdy walking shoes, bring water and snacks, and plan on a two hour hike. The terrain is hilly, and there are **no bathroom facilities**. Heavy rain will cancel. Contact us at email: fun with any questions.

Swingin' Summer Thursdays and Other Adventures

Beginning this Summer, our congregation will have a booth at local events, starting with West Chester's "Swingin' Summer Thursdays." We will have information about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism, as well as activities for all ages.

The first two are June 6 and July 11. Come join us for a while. To sign up to help, write to email: outreach, and please stop by.

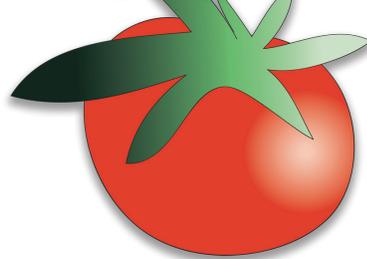


- Invite friends & family.
- Come after the service and share a table with others if you wish.
- Choose between indoor and rooftop dining.
- Contact Nancy Artus at email: **auction** for more information.
- See the full menu at **thecouchtomato.com**.

IMPORTANT!

You MUST say you are there for UCWC BEFORE you pay...you cannot tell them after you have completed your payment

Support UCWC by dining at the couchtomato café



Menu features local and organic products, as well as a specialization in vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free offerings.



- Gourmet Pizzas •
- Specialty Salads •
- Signature Sandwiches •
- Homemade Soups •

Fundraiser SUNDAY JUNE 23 11 am - 9 pm

31 W Gay Street in West Chester
Dine In or Take Out

*Before you pay, mention the promo code:
UCWC dine-to-donate and 15% of your
purchase will be donated to UCWC.*

Contact Nancy Artus at auction@ucwc.org See full menu at thecouchtomato.com

Folk Singing

The next **folk singing get-together** is Friday, June 14, 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**. All are welcome



Lunch Group

Lunch Group will meet Friday, June 14, 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.



Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

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



Don't miss our annual Congregational Meeting and its important votes on June 9.

- Jun 1 Sat **Ches-Len Preserve Hike.** 9 am. See p. 6.
- Jun 2 Sun **First Sunday Food Collection.** See p. 6.
- Jun 3 Mon **Defenders of Democracy.** 11:30 am. Room 6. See p. 5.
- Jun 4 Tue **Executive Team.** 6:30 pm. Minister's office.
- Jun 5 Wed **Men's Group.** 7 pm. Room 4. See p. 2.
- Jun 6 Thu **Small Group Ministry Facilitators.** 7-9 pm. Meditation Room. Email [DLFD](#).
- Jun 7 Fri **West Chester Swingin' Summer Thursday.** 6:30-9:00 pm. Uptown West Chester. UCWC will have a booth. See p. 6.
- Jun 9 Sun **First Friday Family Game Night.** 6-9 pm. Social Room. Email: [fun](#).
- Jun 9 Sun **Annual Congregational Meeting.** 11:15 am. Sanctuary. See p. 3.
- Jun 9 Sun **Harvest the Power Leadership Development Training.** 4 pm. Social Room.
- Jun 9 Sun **Safe Harbor Dinner.** 6 pm. Contact Rick London, email: [safe-harbor](#).
- Jun 10 Mon **Religious Services Committee.** 7 pm. Meditation Room. Contact Chris Hyson, email: [religious-services](#).
- Jun 11 Tue **Program Council.** 7 pm. Social Room. Email: [program](#).
- Jun 14 Fri **Lunch Group.** 11:30 am. Panera Bread. See p. 7.
- Jun 14 Fri **Folk Singing.** 7:30 pm. Home of Linda and Steve Sander. See p. 7.
- Jun 16 Sun **Share-the-Plate Sunday.** Benefits the Legal Committee of IndivisibleKSQ. See p. 5.
- Jun 16 Sun **Pastoral Care Ministry Meeting.** 11:30 am. Room 6. Contact email: [pastoral-care](#).
- Jun 18 Tue **Board of Trustees.** 6:30 pm. Social Room. Contact email: [president](#).
- Jun 18 Tue **RE Ice Cream Social.** Maggie Moo's. 7 pm. See p. 4.
- Jun 23 Sun **RE Summer Sundays Program Begins.** See p. 4.
- Jun 23 Sun **Dine to Donate.** Couch Tomato in West Chester. 11 am - 9 pm. See p. 7.

EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:

- Sundays** **Sunday Morning Meditation.** 9:00 am. Meditation Room. Contact email: [DLFD](#).
- Various Dates** **Small Group Ministry (Several Active Groups).** See [web calendar](#) or contact email: [SGM](#). See p. 4.

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.