

# THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

July 2019



## NOTES FROM REV. DAN

Every year, when I was growing up in the suburbs of Washington, DC, my family and I would spend the Fourth of July in an all-day picnic on the National Mall, between the Lincoln and Washington Monuments.

We'd get there early, so we could find a parking space and get a prime spot for our blanket, and spend the day playing frisbee, running over to the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, and dipping our toes in the reflecting pool. In the evening, we'd be treated to DC's fireworks display, completely filling the sky. I don't remember those hot July picnics as times of great patriotism for me, but they were times of community — a group of strangers enjoying the day together.

These days I celebrate Fourth of July on a smaller scale — a dinner with friends, followed by a trip to a neighboring town's low-key celebration, with a fireworks display far smaller than the one I remember from my childhood. This, too, is a celebration of community, made all the richer by the

large number of immigrant families who take part in it.

Maybe that's what patriotism is, in a sense. I know that, for me, patriotism is not the same as support for a set of policies, a flag, or a war. It isn't "my country, right or wrong," and it certainly isn't "my country above all others."

But it can be a love for the community of strangers gathered in this land

— through choice, through birth, through circumstance — and an imperative to help the country we share live its values and potential more fully. It can be a willingness to acknowledge failings and seek to overcome them, to

work for justice and freedom when it is denied, and to preserve the land, waters, and air itself from destruction.

To me, the best way to express my love of country is to work for the Unitarian Universalist values of justice, equity and compassion, and for the realization of that promise long unfulfilled — "peace, liberty, and justice for all." True patriotism is a giving love for the great community of strangers, gathered together in one country. In that sense, I am glad to be a patriot.

— In faith, Dan

***True patriotism is giving love for the great community of strangers, gathered together in one country.***

### Minister's 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 through July 7, and from July 15 through August 18.

When he is away, our lay Pastoral Care Team will be available for pastoral needs and local ministers will be on call for emergencies — please contact email: [pastoral-care](mailto:pastoral-care) or email: [office](mailto:office).

### 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.*



A Welcoming  
Congregation

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*I discovered that the prevailing attitude here seems to be "Let's just get 'er done." No muss, no fuss.*

## A Huge Thank You

After it was known that significant cuts (about \$12,000) were needed for a balanced 2019-2020 budget, four households stepped up and pledged one-time gifts. Thank you! These gifts will definitely help next year's revenue. Meanwhile final expenses and income for the current year are still coming in.

We're hoping to restore as many of the budget cuts as possible. How many will depend on fulfillment of this year's pledges and what is left at the end of the year from unspent budget items.

**If possible, please catch up on your stewardship pledge.**

## From the President

Long, long ago, in a galaxy far, far away, I served a term on the board of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Anchorage, Alaska. At the time, I would joke that "trying to lead a bunch of UUs is like herding cats."

Back then, it was certainly true. The fellowship was notoriously divided between older humanists who rejected anything that felt the least bit "religious" and a growing younger cohort who wanted something that felt like church. As your newly elected president of UCWC, I'm pleased to report — all of you here are a much more congenial bunch of Unitarian cats!



Whether I was helping with demolition for the renovation, or with outside maintenance at The Concept School, or with our new landscaping project, or serving my first term on the board, I discovered that the prevailing attitude here seems to be "Let's just get 'er done." No muss, no fuss.

The more I've become involved here, the more impressed I am at how much off-stage effort it takes to support our Sunday programming and other activities. I've come to realize that these tasks are not "work" as we commonly understand the word — they are how we go about creating our UCWC community. They are an essential part of how we connect with and minister to each other.

On the UCWC board, we have begun to focus on longer-term, bigger-picture questions, while leaving routine operational decisions to the Executive Team. We want to provide appropriate oversight while ensuring that our talented and dedicated minister and staff have what they need to do their jobs.

I hope to guide the board in asking how we can best achieve our mission, which is to transform lives by building a strong community based in our Unitarian Universalist faith. Two areas that will get particular attention are growing our membership and welcoming a more diverse range of people to our religious community.

I trust that with good will and our commitment to uphold our Covenant of Right Relations, we can all work together to achieve our vision that UCWC be "a vital, growing, and diverse congregation that is a powerful voice and respected example of Unitarian Universalist principles in action."

— Matt



## Men's Group

The Tuesday evening men's group will meet on July 2 at 7:00 pm downstairs in Room 4. The topic will be "What does patriotism mean for liberals?" All men are welcome.

The Saturday morning men's group is taking the summer off, returning in September.

# Lifespan Faith Development

## Summer Ice Cream Wed Jul 17 ♦ Thu Aug 15

The RE Committee invites you to our traditional Ice Cream Socials. These are informal opportunities for UCWC 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**.

## Summer SoulCollage®

Calling all SoulCollagers! Let's find a time to gather this summer and make SoulCollage® cards. We've picked four dates over two July weekends. Please access the **Doodle poll** (<https://doodle.com/poll/vvwwtf3vwygmt6n3>) and indicate all the dates that work for you.

SoulCollage® is a process which begins as simple creative fun, but which suddenly may surprise and awaken you. By accessing your intuitive own sense of knowing, you'll create an incredible deck of cards with deep personal meaning that will help you with life's questions.

This session is for people who have already done an introductory workshop. If you're not acquainted with SoulCollage® and would like to know more, please contact Pam Baxter at email: **DLFD**.

## Summer Religious Education Exploring our UU Principles in Crafts, Drama, and Outdoor Activities For kids age 4 and older

- Jun 23** **Who Are We?** We start with our First Principle, which reminds us that each person is important. We'll try our hands at making silhouettes, and then brainstorm what positive words we'd use to describe ourselves, and attach those to our artwork.
- Jun 30** **Mindful Yoga.** UCWC member Susan Sluk, owner of **eat. drink. Om...Yoga Cafe** in West Chester, will share her yoga expertise with us, weaving in our UU Principles.
- Jul 7** **Happy July 4th weekend!** No program scheduled.
- Jul 14** **Meet the Mayor.** UCWC member and West Chester Mayor, Dianne Herrin, returns to RE to talk to us about what inspired her to run for office and how she weaves her UU values into this leadership position.
- Jul 21** **African Dance with Janet Peck.** A service for all ages, in the sanctuary.
- Jul 28** **Out in the Garden.** Weather permitting, we'll do whatever weeding and garden chores need to be done in our beautiful new landscaped areas. Bring hats and sunscreen. If the weather keeps us indoors, we'll have other activities.
- Aug 4** **Reader's Theater.** No costumes, no props to make, no lines to memorize. Players use their voices, facial expressions, and gestures to make selected stories come to life.
- Aug 11** **What's Out There?** We'll explore our urban ecology with a nature scavenger hunt. Who knows what we'll find!
- Aug 18** **Build Your Own DLFD.** Our DLFD will retire at the end of June 2020. What qualities would we like in our next religious education professional? The kids will have a chance to voice their opinions.
- Aug 25** **Kindness Rocks.** In time for the start of school and the return of students to West Chester University, we will weather-proof the kindness rocks we've created and put them out on our property for others to find.



If you have questions about any of the programs, please contact Pam at email: **DLFD**.

## Paying for Our Beautiful Building

Four years ago, the congregation voted overwhelming to stay at our current location rather than move. Efforts began in earnest to transform our building into the beautiful space we all enjoy. The renovation ended up costing \$1.3 million.

Thanks to members and friends pledging nearly \$730,000 in a Capital Campaign, generous gifts totaling \$313,000 and a \$40,000 Chalice Lighters Grant, we were able to take out a mortgage for only \$250,000. A remarkable feat!

In the Spring of 2016, the Capital Campaign was begun and designed to last three years. When we realized the final cost would be more than originally anticipated, the Capital Campaign was extended another year and more pledges were made in response. To date, 86% of the Capital Campaign pledges have been fulfilled.

Knowing it would take three to four years for people to fulfill their Capital Campaign pledges, four very generous families made

bridge loans totaling \$173,000 – enough to cover the cost of the renovation while people fulfilled their capital pledges. As of the end of June, \$70,200 will remain to be paid on bridge loans made by those four UCWC families.

**toward the renovation?** Please make your donation payable to UCWC and put “Capital Campaign Gift” in the memo.

**Note:** All Capital Campaign gifts and pledge payments will go directly toward repaying the bridge



**Have you fulfilled your capital pledge?** If you're not sure, watch for your capital pledge statement, to be sent very soon.

**Are you enjoying the beautiful space and would like to contribute**

loans from our four generous families. Once the bridge loans are satisfied, any extra will go toward paying off our mortgage.

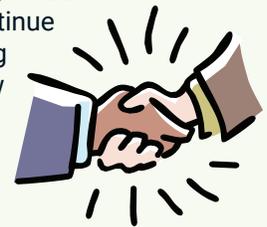


## Small Group Ministries

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](mailto:DLFD).

## Make Our Guests Feel at Home

We always want to make people welcome at UCWC. After the greeters meet and greet visitors at the front desk, it takes the Congregation to continue the welcoming by sitting with or chatting with new people before and after the service as well as with anyone you don't recognize.



It's comfortable to talk to your friends, but we need to include new members, friends, and visitors into our coffee hour and conversation. Please make that extra effort to be welcoming.

## Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

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

*The orange T-shirts represent National Gun Violence Awareness Week.*

## Gun Violence Prevention

On June 2, just days after the mass shooting in Virginia Beach, Tom Buglio and Fatima Patel attended a rally in Media to honor victims of gun violence. The rally was organized by Delco United for Sensible Gun Policy, a strong grassroots Delaware County gun violence prevention organization.

Participants included United States Representative Mary Gay Scanlon, State Senator Tim Kearney, and other elected leaders, along with relatives of victims of gun violence.

The orange T-shirts represent National Gun Violence Awareness Week, started after the death of Hadiya Pendleton, the 15-year-old girl who was accidentally shot to death in Chicago by gang related violence weeks after she performed at President Obama's second inauguration with her school marching band. We stand with thousands of others across the country honoring Hadiya and all victims of gun violence and demanding change.

Contact Tom at email: [gun-safety](mailto:gun-safety).



Tom Buglio and Fatima Patel at the Media Rally

## First Sunday Food Collection

This Month's Suggested Items: Chunky Soups

Our **monthly collection** for the **West Chester Food Cupboard** is Sunday, July 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](mailto:food-cupboard).



## Black Lives Matter Mud Row Outing

We invite you to join committee members on Saturday, July 13, at the People's Light in Malvern for the 2 pm performance of **Mud Row**. The play is about an African American family in West Chester. For more information and tickets, visit the **People's Light website**.



**Looking Ahead:** On Sunday, August 18, the Black Lives Matter Committee will have a table at the Melton Center as part of their Community Day. Please visit us and see what else is going on in the community.

The Black Lives Matter Committee continues to bring awareness to racial injustice.

## 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 July 21 (third Sunday of the month), the **Domestic Violence Center of Chester County**.

The Domestic Violence Center addresses one of the major problems in modern society, violent and sexual abuse of women and children. This organization has been operating in West Chester since 1976, and has helped over 30,000 survivors of domestic abuse, usually on a shoestring budget.

The DVCCC provides food and shelter to families in danger, and helps them transition to a safe place, as well as providing education, advocacy, and programs for prevention and reduction of domestic abuse. It remains visibly hidden to protect the families. Our support is vital in helping them provide this important service to our community.

Please note the following as you prepare your donation:

- All cash is split 50/50.
- 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.

Thank you for your generosity to April recipient, The Maternal and Child Health Consortium, in the amount of \$580.



## UUSC Update

**Jurors Refuse to Convict Scott Warren for Giving Life-Saving Aid to Migrants.** Facing 20 years in prison for giving humanitarian relief to migrants in the Arizona desert, a recent trial ended in a hung jury. UUSC and its partner, No More Deaths, celebrate this positive outcome. **Read UUSC's latest update.**

**UUSC Members Join Coalition for Week of Action to End Federal Child Detention.**

From delivering your signed petitions in Washington, DC, to protests in front of the Homestead child detention facility in Florida, our members showed up to demand an end to locking up migrant children. **Read more.**



**Honduras in Crisis: How You Can Help.**

**Take Action** in solidarity for human rights and their defenders in Honduras, who are facing political strife and governmental corruption.

**We Must Do More to End the Rohingya Genocide.**

Tell your legislators we must do more to end impunity for genocide. Call on your Senators to co-sponsor and support a resolution which would condemn and sanction the Burmese military for its atrocities, hold the perpetrators accountable, and allow for the safe, voluntary repatriation of the Rohingya to their homes. **Take Action.**

The **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee** fights for human rights and UU values around the world. They empower local partners and help the most vulnerable. Any donation will make you a member for a year. Thank you.



## Grocery Cards

If you buy groceries – and who doesn't? – think about donating 5% of your costs to UCWC by buying grocery gift cards after each Sunday service.

**ShopRite** For each Giant, Acme, or ShopRite gift card (in \$100, \$50, or \$25 denominations) we sell, UCWC gets to keep five percent of the price.

**ACME** In addition, Wawa offers discount coupons for shorty hoagies with a percentage going to UCWC.

Think how much money could be added to our budget, if every family participated. All you need is your checkbook (no credit cards, sorry). Spend what you normally would for groceries, and contribute to UCWC.



## Fun & Fellowship

### Folk Singing

The next **folk singing get-together** is Friday, July 12, 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**.



### Lunch Group

**Lunch Group** will meet Friday, July 12 at 11:30 a.m. at Panera Bread, 1103 West Chester Pike, near ShopRite. Newcomers are welcome.

To be added to the email reminder list, contact Linda Sander at email: **lunch-group**. The reminders are an easy way to RSVP, so we can save enough seats for everyone. If you don't have email, or if you change your mind at the last minute, come anyway. Everyone is welcome.



## SWINGIN' Summer Thursdays and Other Adventures

Our first Swingin' Summer Thursday was a success. We provided information about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism to over 30 adults. Many of these adults were persuaded to visit our table by their children, who were excited to paint a Kindness Rock. Our next one will be July 11.

We also plan to have a presence at the Melton Center on August 18 and at Caln Community Day on September 7.

Please stop by our table on any of these dates and/or contact Callie Durner at email: **outreach**, if you are interested in helping and joining in the fun.



## Fun and Fellowship Pool Party ♦ July 21 ♦ 1-5 pm

We are invited to the home of Kora and Tilo Stahl, 228 W. Miner Street in West Chester, for a potluck picnic, swimming, and lawn games. **(Parents please note: Due to the location and depth of the pool, it is only for competent swimmers. Children will need supervision.)**

Guests are asked to bring a dish to share as well as reusable plates and flatware. RSVP is requested. Contact email: **fun** to RSVP or with questions. Bad weather will cancel.



### UPCOMING FUN & FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

(Details in future issues of *The Fellowtrian*)

- Aug 10 Lakeside Potluck, Saturday, 1-4 pm.
- Sep 8 Welcome Back Picnic Potluck at East Goshen Park, (Hicks Pavilion) after the service until 3 pm.

