

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

August 2019



NOTES FROM REV. DAN

As most of you know by now, our congregation will return to two services this Fall, after several years. Since there are undoubtedly a lot of questions, it seems only right to dedicate this month's column to addressing a few of them. Thank you to everyone who has given feedback, helped us plan, warned us what to look out for, and made suggestions.

Two Services – Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. Wait – what?
- A. Yes, two services. After long consultations with the Program Council, various committees, staff, members, and a congregational town hall, as well as many conversations between the Board and the Executive Team, we have made the decision to add a second Sunday service beginning September 15.
- Q. Why are we adding a service?
- A. When we renovated our building, we made the sanctuary slightly smaller. At the same time, attendance has risen to a point where we feel comfortably full on many Sundays and “packed in” on some Sundays. In order to allow room for growth and hospitality, we are moving from one service to two. In addition, having two services will make us more accessible to people with different schedules. It should also allow – for a time – a more intimate feel to our services, and hopefully some easier parking.
- Q. What time will the services be?
- A. 9:15 am and 11 am, with a larger social hour between (to which second service people are absolutely invited) and a scaled down social hour after the second service.
- Q. When will Religious Education take place?
- A. Our regular Sunday School program will be at the 9:15 service. We hope to have a smaller, all ages curriculum, along with a youth group, at 11:00. This will depend on members stepping up to help. (Remember, you don’t have to miss a service to teach or assist in RE.)
- Q. Will the services be the same?
- A. The services will have the same readings and hymns (usually), but special music may be different, with the choir singing twice a month at the 9:15 service and other special music led by Miriam on those Sundays at the 11:00 service.
- Q. Is all of this definite?
- A. It’s a starting place. We expect to evaluate and adjust as we go. We know that not everything will go completely perfectly, but we’d like to help it go as smoothly as possible.
- Q. What about my group that meets at 11:30?
- A. Groups that meet Sundays will need to push their meeting time

– Cont’d Page 2 –

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

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.

Aug 4 10 am

UNALIENABLE

Michael Werner

Are the moral imperatives guiding society objective or subjective? The Preamble to the Declaration of Independence says that we are endowed with certain unalienable rights, including a right to life. The King James Version of the Sixth Commandment says "Thou shalt not kill." In our UU Principles we covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Do we apply these moral imperatives consistently when we consider waging war, physician-assisted suicide, the death penalty, and abortion rights? In this service, Michael will share his quest for an objective ethical response to the taking of human life.

**Aug 11
10 am**

**THE FIRST PRINCIPLE UCWC Folk Singing
(ANNUAL FOLK SINGING SERVICE) Interest Group**

If you come to this folk-sing expecting to hear a litany of injustices perpetrated against your favorite oppressed group — a well-worn staple of the folk genre — you'll be disappointed. Today we will celebrate the inherent worth and dignity of every person. As always, everyone will be encouraged to sing along, and lyrics will be provided.

Aug 18 10 am

TBA

Rev. Kate Rohde

**Aug 25
10 am**

**THE FAITH OF
THE OPEN MIND**

Rev. Dan Schatz

As the Summer comes to end, we turn to thoughts of our congregation, and explore what it is that makes Unitarian Universalism unique and important in the world and our lives. This is a good service to invite friends to.

— Notes from Dan Cont'd —

later by a little bit, but hopefully not too far into the afternoon. Smaller groups can meet immediately at noon in the meditation room. And you can always bring snacks.

Q. Will I get to see my friends?

A. The two-service schedule will run from September through April, with a few Sundays (after major holidays, etc.) back to single service for the week. In addition, we have an active Fun and Fellowship Committee, which is planning a host of special events, as well as more small group programs than we have ever had before.

Q. Won't it feel small?

A. Yes, it probably will, especially at first, and you can help with this. This is when we need people to show up, invite friends, and actively promote our congregation in the community. (Check out our new pamphlets!) We think we have something wonderful, and we'll be in the best position we

ever have been to be welcoming and bring new people in. It will make a big difference to have our regulars attending every Sunday — minister and lay led — this year.

Q. How can I help?

A. Again...

- Show up on Sundays and bring friends. Make sure you sign up to help with your Hospitality Team. (If you don't know what a Hospitality Team is, contact email: [hospitality](#) to find out.) Sign up to teach or assist in Sunday School (email: [DLFD](#)) — you won't have to miss a service to do it.
- And please be patient. This year is one big step in a long-term plan.

I'm sure there are more questions, some of which we've anticipated and some of which we haven't. It will be a journey for all of us, together.

— In faith, Dan

Building Committee News

Check out the new window well covers on the alley side of the building. The frames have built-in struts that swing into place when raised to allow access to the wells for clean-out or maintenance. Thanks to Dexter Chisolm and Fred Matt. The other covers will also be replaced.



Coming This Fall: The Auction

The 2019 UCWC Service Auction will be SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 3-6 PM

Contact Nancy Arts at email: nancy.arts@ucwc.org for information or to get involved.

Minister's Schedule

During the Summer, Dan's Office Hours will be by appointment. He will be away from the office on study/prep time, followed by vacation, through August 18. When he is away, our Pastoral Care Team will be available for pastoral needs, and local ministers will be on call for emergencies – contact email: [pastoral-care](mailto:pastoral-care@ucwc.org) or email: [office](mailto:office@ucwc.org).

First Sunday Food Collection

This Month's Suggested Items: Cereal

Our **monthly collection** for the **West Chester Food Cupboard** is Sunday, August 4. Look for the white collection basket in the coat closet.



From the President

On a recent family visit to Montpelier, Vermont, I had an interesting chat with my sister-in-law. She is what you might call an Episcopalian Buddhist, and she seemed bemused that the Unitarian church in her town stops holding services in the summer. She wasn't being critical – but clearly, that arrangement wouldn't work for her needs.

That exchange made me thankful for those who keep our faith community here running during our summer lull. I could devote an entire President's message to thanking everyone who has a hand in the amazing amount of activity that is going on this summer. (In fact, I started this month's message trying to do that and



The miracle of life is everywhere around us. realized – I won't have enough space to do everyone justice.)

Appreciating it is an important part of self-care.

In July, Rev. Dan gave an excellent sermon on how our summertime activities away from church are another, perfectly valid way we can find spiritual connection and renewal.

I've heard more than one Unitarian refer to "the church of the outdoors."

Whether or not we believe in some concept of "God," the miracle of life is everywhere around us. Appreciating it – taking time to wonder at the splendor of nature and our place in it – is an important part of self-care. And as Rev. Dan's sermon reminded us, self-care is an important part of one's spiritual life.

That was a message I really needed to hear. It's a trying time for me, psychologically. Humankind is inflicting cataclysmic changes on our planet's climate, our country is being led by an openly racist president, and I'm coping with the death of a beloved older brother.

I recently gave a talk on the climate crisis, and someone asked, "How can we have hope when the crisis is so urgent and so desperate?" In response, I read a quote from scientist and writer Carl Safina. It's a message that applies whether we are dealing with personal loss or pondering the challenges facing our country and our planet:

Hope is the ability to see how things could be better. The world of human affairs has long been a shadowy place, but always backlit by the light of hope. Each person can add hope to the world. A resigned person subtracts hope. The more people strive, the more change becomes likely. Far better, then, that good people do the striving.

So this summer, rest up, recharge, and then let's do what we can to add hope to the world.

– Matt

Lifespan Faith Development

The one thing that can make up for limited time is people, and we're counting on that. Some of you have already offered help in various ways—thank you!

Summer Ice Cream Thursday, August 15

The RE Committee invites you to the last of our Summer Ice Cream Socials for 2019. This is an informal opportunity 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](#).



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

"The world's getting awfully big in the window."

Commander Jim Lovell's comment (above) to NASA's Mission Control in Houston is one of the memorable lines from the movie Apollo 13. Time is running out for the crew to receive and implement the plan for re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere. Those words have been in my mind a lot lately, triggered both by the programs celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing and the entire Apollo Program, and by my upcoming retirement.



When I announced my plan to retire from UCWC last spring, I was invited to stay on for an additional year to help manage a smooth transition to the next DLFD. From that perspective, a year looked like a long time. Suddenly, I find that it feels like no time at all, especially since from January through June 2020 I'll be working quarter-time. Not only am I transitioning to retirement, but I'm also working to get the entire RE year completely set up in advance, create plans for all the Sundays in the first half of 2020 that I won't be at UCWC, and shift some of my usual tasks to others. There's a lot of preparation and planning to be done and not a lot of time in which to do it.

The one thing that can make up for limited time is people, and we're counting on that. Of course, there are some tasks that don't benefit from more people being applied to them. As the saying illustrates, "Just because a woman can make a baby in nine months, it does not follow that nine women can make a baby in one month." But, in the case of RE, there are many tasks that will benefit. For instance, more people talking with potential volunteers will speed RE teacher recruiting. More people assembling the materials for Spirit Play story baskets will get the stories created that much faster. And more people volunteering to help however they might be needed will speed everything.

Sarah Hyson (RE Committee Chair) and I have been meeting weekly, and the RE Committee has been meeting monthly throughout the summer to refine and prioritize the list of tasks and projects we need to accomplish in the next several months. We'll continue to talk with the congregation and let you know what we need and how you can help. Some of you have already offered help in various ways—thank you!

— 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.*

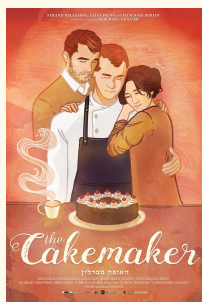
Diversity Book Group

Film: **The Cakemaker**
English Subtitles
Sun, Aug 11, 7:30 pm

In this tender and moving debut, Ofir Raul Graizer explores the connection formed by a gay German baker, Thomas (Tim Kalkhof), and Anat (Sarah Adler), the Israeli widow of the man whom they both loved, Oren (Roy Miller). When Oren is killed in a car accident, Thomas moves to Jerusalem and takes a job in Anat's café.

As their relationship deepens, and pressure from Oren's religious family rises for Anat, Graizer delicately and gracefully traces the fluidity of desire and sexuality, the bonds forged by shared grief, and the challenges those can present to faith and family. As food is one way cultures can bridge such divides, so too can it be a way to mark separation.

All are welcome.



Concert for Humanity

On Thursday, July 11, folks gathered at United Methodist Church for a night of music and speakers bringing light to the dire conditions of many refugees seeking asylum at our southern border.

Fifteen speakers and eight musical acts enlightened and entertained the roughly 100 hearty souls who braved the torrential rain. UCWC congregants Craig Talbot, Marie Steel, Tom Buglio, Jake Michael, Judy Perri, and Michael Werner performed as well as Rev. Dan, who sang original songs with the theme of lost children.

A common theme was the effect on the youngest of those seeking refuge in our country. Dan spoke of a moral crisis, noting that, "All children are our own." Rev. Truman Brooks, host of the event, talked about the long-lasting effects of trauma on children being separated from their parents.

Barbara Kirby of St. Agnes Church asked, "Is there no more golden rule?" Reverend Kyle Boyer of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church spoke of history repeating itself, comparing the detention centers to the WWII Japanese internment.

Aztec dancer-immigrants from Mexico in full feathered beaded and masked regalia closed the event. A three-year-old daughter of one of the dancers clung to her mother, afraid of the crowd. Her mother picked her up to comfort her, not missing a beat. This human moment captured the evening better than any speech or music could have.

Organizations recommended by the event's organizers include **Border Angels**, **Freedom for Immigrants**, and **International Rescue Committee**.

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. The Share-the-Plate recipient for August 18 (the third Sunday of the month) is the Charles A. Melton Arts and Education Center.

The Charles A. Melton Arts & Education Center, known to many of us as the Community Center, has stayed true to the spirit of its founder Dr. Pinckney-Hill, who envisioned a center to serve those marginalized due to economic class, gender, and race.

The Center is open to all and provides programs that bring people together to promote understanding. The Center offers education, recreation and cultural and civic events. The Center depends on donations and community support to carry on its work for our community.

Thank you for your generosity to the May recipient, the West Chester Food Cupboard, in the amount of \$880. An additional \$1,170 was donated to the Food Cupboard, through checks in the plate on previous Sundays for a total of \$2,050.

Share the Plate Nominations

The deadline for nominations for the 2019-20 Share the Plate year is August 18. Request nomination forms and criteria from Emily Sweet or Kathryn Severson (email: **share-the-plate**).

Fun & Fellowship



Fun and Fellowship Events

Aug 10 - 3-7 pm. Please join us for a Lakeside Picnic near the home of Sheila Grant and Jamie Ingram, 962 North Penn Drive in West Goshen Township.

Activities include:

- Beach...with lifeguard
- Kayaking
- Fishing...bring your own pole
- Picnic Supper - hamburgers, hot dogs, watermelon and dessert

RSVPs (email: [fun](mailto:fun@ucwc.org)) will be very helpful for planning. Bring an appetizer or salad. BYOBverage (ice water provided). There is plenty of parking at the lake. Use the driveway on right-hand side just before Grant/Ingram home. **Bad weather will cancel.**

Sep 8, 11:00-3:00. Welcome Back Picnic and Potluck at East Goshen Park, Hicks Pavillion. Join UCWC members and friends for the start of the new congregational year. Watch for more information in the September *Fellowtarian* and *Connections*.

Lakeside PICNIC

At the home of
Sheila Grant and James Ingram
962 North Penn Drive
in West Goshen Twp

*Please park at the lake parking lot.
This will be the driveway just before
the Grant/Ingram house.*

Light Supper Will Be Provided

- Hamburgers & Hot Dogs
- Watermelon & Dessert
- Bring an Appetizer or Salad
- BYOB

Saturday August 10

3:00 to 7:00 PM

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!!

Kayaking
Swimming...
w/Lifeguard
Fishing...
Bring your own pole.

RSVP Fun@UCWC.org
Bad weather cancels

Lunch Group

Lunch Group will meet Friday, August 9, 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](mailto:lunch-group@ucwc.org). 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, August 9, 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](mailto:folk-singing@ucwc.org).

Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

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



The last RE Ice Cream
Social of the summer is
August 15.

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| Aug 4 | Sun | First Sunday Food Collection. See p. 3. Summer RE. Reader's Theater. See July <i>Fellowtarian</i> , p. 4. |
| Aug 6 | Tue | Men's Group. 7 pm. Room 4. |
| Aug 9 | Fri | Lunch Group. 11:30 am. Panera Bread. See p. 6. Folk Singing. 7:30 pm. Home of Linda and Steve Sander. See p. 6. |
| Aug 10 | Sat | Lakeside Picnic. 3 - 7 pm. Home of Sheila Grant and James Ingram. See p. 6. |
| Aug 11 | Sun | Summer RE. What's Out There? See July <i>Fellowtarian</i> , p. 4. Safe Harbor Dinner. 6 pm. Contact Rick London, email: safe-harbor . Diversity Book Group Film. 7 pm. <i>The Cakemaker</i> . See p. 5. |
| Aug 14 | Wed | Board Meeting. 6:30 pm. Social Room. |
| Aug 15 | Thu | RE Ice Cream Social. Maggie Moo's. 7 pm. See p. 4. |
| Aug 18 | Sun | Share-the-Plate Sunday. Benefits the Melton Center. See p. 5. Summer RE. Build Your Own DLFD. See July <i>Fellowtarian</i> , p. 4. Share-the-Plate Nominations Deadline. See p. 5. |
| Aug 25 | Sun | Summer RE. Kindness Rocks. See July <i>Fellowtarian</i> , p. 4. Annual Social Justice Committee Meeting. 11:30 am. Room 6. |
| Sep 8 | Sun | Welcome Back Picnic. 11:00-3:00. East Goshen Park. See p. 6. |

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. |

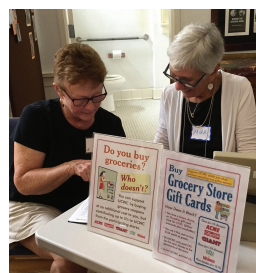


The Fellowtarian is the monthly newsletter of the
Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

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