

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

November 2019



NOTES FROM REV. DAN

The truth is, we don't always feel grateful.

Thanksgiving can be difficult that way, especially if, for whatever reason, we're going through a time in our lives, or in the world, which is difficult, anxious, or frightening. Sometimes it can be tough to put ourselves in the Thanksgiving mood.

I think all of us go through that every once in a while, some, — if things are especially rough — more than others. This is as it should be; it's unrealistic to imagine we should walk through life blissed out on the world.

And yet...

On those dank days, sometimes we find ourselves remembering — this life is so much more. It could be the simplest thing that brings us

back — meeting the child of someone we watched grow up, a piece of art, a small achievement, a brief conversation that reminds us of the warmth of human kindness.

Even when I'm not at my most optimistic, these things give me strength and reasons for gratitude.

This year, I'm grateful for all of them — and for laughter, love, insights from wise friends, and the privilege to serve a congregation which is open to new ways of being together and new

pathways forward.

We don't need to be grateful all the time, but there are blessings all around us. This November, my hope and my prayer is that you find reasons for gratitude, and that you remember others are grateful for you.

In faith, Dan

We don't need to be grateful all the time, but there are blessings all around us.



Pastoral Care

The **Pastoral Care Team** contact for this month is
Carrie Sandler.



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 both 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.*

Nov 3 9:15 and 11:00

ALL SOULS

Rev. Dan Schatz

On All Souls Day we honor our ancestors, remember loved ones we have lost, and remember the dead. This special service will include a ritual of remembrance. All who come are invited to bring a photograph or a memento of someone you are remembering for the altar.

Nov 10

HOLY GROUND

Rev. Dan Schatz

9:15 and 11:00

Our congregation sits on holy ground, surrounded by holy ground. We live on holy ground. How do we wake to the sacredness of this and all places?

Nov 17

ARE WE TOO "WEIRD"?

Rev. Dr. Kate Rohde,

9:15 and 11:00

WHY UU's AND

Minister Emerita

OTHER LIBERALS ARE

HARD TO UNDERSTAND

One of the foremost social scientists working on the social psychology of values discovered that people who are more traditionally progressive and those who are more traditionally conservative have two major values in common, but conservatives have additional values that compete with the two that progressives value. In our country this progressive value set is held primarily by people who are Western, educated, rich or financially comfortable, and in democracies. He gives these people the acronym WEIRD both because it fits the letters of the traits involved, but also because this group in the US and even more so around the world is a small, unusual, group. He found that a group of UU's he tested were overwhelmingly WEIRD. What does that mean for UU's? Is our failure to diversify our values part of the reason we are small and less diverse as a church? Should we change, or should we stay WEIRD?

There will be a Town Hall between services at 10:15 am, focused on our search for a new Director of Lifespan Faith Development. Please plan to participate and give your input on the future of our religious education programs for children and adults.

Nov 24

THE THANKSGIVING DOOR

Rev. Dan Schatz,

Single Service

All Ages

Pam Baxter,

10:00 am

Bread Service

and Miriam Davidson

For this beloved all-ages service, we invite all members and friends of our congregation to bring a kind of bread that represents your background or in some way describes you or your family. Together we will share bread and hear a humorous yet poignant story which reminds us that Thanksgiving is about opening one's heart not just in gratitude but also in welcome. We hope that some gluten free bread will also be brought so that everyone may share in the Bread Communion.

This special single service at 10 am will be followed by a soup lunch at 11.

NOTE: On November 24 and December 1 we will hold single services, at 10 am. We return to 9:15 and 11 am services on December 8.

From the President

Lately I've been pondering a question of terminology, and how it may affect our efforts to realize the vision we have for our congregation: How should we describe the generous people who have committed to handle a lot of tasks in a particular area at UCWC?



Typically, we say they say they are "volunteers." And the word "volunteer" does cover the most important point – that person is not paid.

But to say someone is a "volunteer" may a bit off in one sense.

Often, the person did not step forward and say "Here I am. What can I do?" He or she was asked to fill that particular role. And right now, we need to do some asking. We have some key roles that have gone unfilled for a while – most notably, leading the membership team and leading our care-of-the-building team.

I'm wondering if part of the challenge in filling roles at UCWC is how we talk about them. Fortunately, we have gotten away from speaking in terms of "leading (or serving on) a committee." The word "committee" is surely one of the most uninspiring in the English language.

When asked to fill a role at UCWC, a potential recruit who is astute will inquire about the "job description" for that role. And if we have our act together, we will have a current one, covering the kind of "work" to be done. But in using terms like "job" and "work," it starts to feel like we at UCWC are operating in the business

world. It suggests a transactional relationship – we need this done; you do it; we pay you. (Except for that last part.)

In reality, what we ask is not simply for you to do a task or job or fill a position. We ask you to be part of how we care for each other and foster our sense of community. When you do something as simple as making coffee for social hour and cleaning up afterward, it is both an act of care and of community-building.

So, what is a better word than "volunteer"?

Some traditional religious organizations use the term "servant." However, that implies the person is in a position of inferiority – ultimately serving a higher authority, namely God or Jesus. Not very UU.

The term "we minister to each other" is being used by some UU congregations these days. It gets to the deeper sense of involvement, but using "minister" as a verb to describe something that lay people do is not a familiar concept to many. And it's not

a comfortable concept for everyone. Recently when I mentioned it, a very active long-time member almost flinched and said "that doesn't work for me."

I don't have a great idea for a new term we might use, so I invite you to share your thoughts. What's in a name? Would a "volunteer" by any other name be easier to recruit?

At this point, all I know is that having the contributions of a "volunteer," by that or any other name, would be as sweet.

— Matt Zencey

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.

Lifespan Faith Development

REmarks

Children's Religious Education Youth Ambassadors

Beginning in November, you'll see something new when you enter the lobby: one of our young people posted near the Greeters table, wearing a yellow sash with a rainbow stripe and the words "Youth Ambassador" stitched onto it. Our idea is to have a young greeter in the lobby to welcome visiting families, giving potential new children in our RE Program an immediate contact with someone closer to their age.

Unitarian Universalist History and Theologies CHANGE OF DATE

Rev. Dan Schatz will teach a special class on Unitarian Universalist History and Theologies on **Monday, November 4** from 7 to 9 pm in Room 4, downstairs. The class is open to all and especially encouraged for newcomers and those who would like to grow in their understanding of Unitarian Universalism. Walk-ins are welcome, but it is always helpful let Rev. Dan know you are planning to attend so he can plan. If you need childcare, please let **Rev. Dan** know as soon as possible.

Adult RE Programs

Unitarian Universalist History and Theologies

Monday, November 4
7:00 to 9:00 pm
Room 4, Lower Level

See article, bottom left.

Exploring Spiritual Practice

Tuesdays, December 3, February 4, and April 7
7:00 to 9:00 pm
Room 4, Lower Level

We've planned three sessions, each focusing on an individual chapter from different sections of *Everyday Spiritual Practice* by Scott. W. Alexander. From "The Basics," we'll explore Eclectic Spirituality. From "Engaging the Soul—Creativity," we'll explore Art. And from "Engaging the Mind—Contemplation," we'll explore Prayer.

Note: The book is available for online purchase in paperback and Kindle versions. The Adult RE Committee has purchased two books to lend out.

SoulCollage®

Sunday, November 17
12:30 to 2:30 pm
Room 7, Lower Level

Card-making gatherings meet the third Sunday of the month. Next session is December 15. For more information, email Pam at email: **DLFD**.

Being Mortal Book Discussion Series

Sundays, October 27, November 3, November 10
12:15 to 1:30 pm
Room 4, Lower Level

Join facilitator Kate Rohde for a series of discussions on this "riveting, honest, and humane" book by Atul Gawande, which has already changed the national conversation on aging and death. Any questions, contact Pam at email: **DLFD**.

Note: The book is available for online purchase in paperback and Kindle versions. The Adult RE Committee has purchased two books to lend out.

Harvest the Power Sessions

Check the weekly Connections e-newsletter and Sunday announcements for updates on this program, contact email: **DLFD**.

Women's Retreat 2020

Friday, February 21 through Sunday, February 23
Temenos Retreat Center.

Stay tuned for updates as we continue to plan next year's Women's Retreat, open to both members and friends of the congregation. You can count on plenty of time to relax in a peaceful environment, and plenty of nourishment for your spirit. This is a great opportunity to make new connections and deepen existing ones. Interested in helping with planning? Contact Sarah Hyson at email: **womens-retreat**.



Pam Baxter, Director of
Lifespan Faith Development

Men's Group

Because of Election Day the November meeting of the Tuesday men's group is cancelled. We will meet again on December 3.

The Saturday men's group will meet on November 16 at 10am in Room 4. All men are welcome. Contact Dirk Troltenier at email: mens-group.

Path to Membership October 27 and November 3 at Noon

It is exciting to see many new faces in our midst!

All visitors and friends are invited Sunday, October 27, and Sunday, November 3, for our Path to Membership Fall sessions. The sessions will be held in our religious education lower-level immediately following the 11 am service. Light refreshments will be provided.

The first session includes a brief introduction to Unitarian Universalism and discussion with Rev. Dan. In the second session we delve into who we are at UCWC, including how we operate, what our goals are, and what we do for the wider community. To RSVP for childcare, please contact Rev. Dan as soon as possible at email: minister.



For those who wish to join our congregation, we are planning a special signing Sunday in December. At that time new members receive a small gift as they sign the membership book, which dates to our beginnings in 1954.

2019 Auction a Success!

Though we don't yet know the exact bottom line, we are happy to say that we made about \$9,500 for UCWC. Thank you to all who helped to make it a success by contributing, bidding and volunteering.

If you won a place at a group event (meal, party, workshop), the donor should be in contact with you. If you won a service or baked good, it is your responsibility to contact the donor to make arrangements. (See your invoice for contact information.) This should be done within a year unless otherwise specified. If you won an item or gift card, you should already have it.

If you haven't yet paid, please do it now. Make a check to UCWC and write "Auction" in the memo line. You can bring it on Sunday or mail it to UCWC, attention Income Treasurer. If you need a copy of your invoice or have any questions, contact Nancy Artus at email: auction.



**Thank
you!** ...to Nancy
Artus, our
auction team
chair.

Small Group Ministry

Small Group Ministry is a way to gather with other Unitarian Universalists twice a month for community, conversation and connection. Each session is organized on a theme and includes a chalice lighting, readings, and questions to spark discussion. Groups are led by trained facilitators who meet regularly with Rev. Dan. Currently, our congregation has five groups which meet at different times and places. If you are interested in joining a group, please contact Pam Baxter at email: DLFD.

Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

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

Holiday Fundraiser for Safe Harbor and UCWC

The holiday season is approaching — are you ready? To help you prepare, Monday's Small Group Ministry group will be fundraising through the Equal Exchange Coop. You can choose from delicious coffees, teas, chocolates, cocoa — even olive oil.



Purchases support small farmer co-ops worldwide, and we'll make a 40% profit on organic and fairly traded treats. The beneficiaries will be Safe Harbor's women residents and UCWC's general fund.

We'll accept orders Sundays between services on November 3, 10, and 17, with payment due when you order. Cash/check only, please — no credit cards. Purchases will be distributed Sunday, December 8.

You can download the catalog [here](#). Put these dates on your calendar and get ready to shop.



Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil Wednesday, November 20, at 7pm

On Wednesday, November 20, at 7 pm, our congregation will host a Transgender Day of Remembrance vigil and community conversation, co-sponsored with the LGBT Equality Alliance of Chester County. We will begin with a candlelight vigil of remembrance, support, and unity in the struggle for transgender rights, and will support each other with words, music, community, and refreshment. Our goal is to provide a safe space for all who will join us on this important day.

Share-the-Plate Generosity

Our November 17 recipient is the Baby Food Fund. Founded by Nate Hyson, son of Sarah and Chris Hyson, the fund gives food to the Chester County Food Bank. 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.



Diversity Book Group

Sun, Nov 10 7:00-8:30 pm Social Room

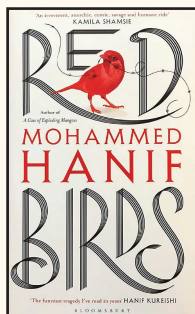
Red Birds by Mohammed Hanif Led by Roger Bove

From the prize-winning author hailed as “Pakistan’s brightest voice” (*Guardian*), comes a powerful and darkly satirical novel about the harsh, absurd hypocrisies of American intervention in the Muslim world.

An American pilot crash-lands in the desert and finds himself on the outskirts of the very camp he was supposed to bomb. After days spent wandering and hallucinating from dehydration, Major Ellie is rescued by one of the camp’s residents, a teenager named Momo, whose entrepreneurial money-making schemes are failing as his family is falling apart.

His older brother, Ali, left for his first day of work at an American base and never returned; his parents are at each other’s throats; his dog, Mutt, is having a very bad day; and an earthy-crunchy aid worker has shown up wanting to research him for her book on the Teenage Muslim Mind.

Amidst the madness, Momo sets out to search for his brother Ali, hoping his new Western acquaintances might be able to help find him. But as the truth of Ali’s whereabouts begins to unfold, the effects of American “aid” on this war-torn country are revealed to be increasingly pernicious.



First Sunday Food Collection

This Month's Suggested Items: Dried Beans

Our **monthly collection** for the **West Chester Food Cupboard** is Sunday, November 3. 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 — please be sure items have not passed their expiration date.



Another 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 fight food insecurity. The Food Cupboard helps people right here, right now, because, “No one should go hungry.”

UUSC Update

Advancing human rights is the result of many hands joining. Be part of the movement.

You want to improve the injustices you see in the world, but with so many emails and requests, how do you know what specific actions to take? The **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)** takes all those actions you would take, if you only had the time, resources and knowledge. At the November 24 services we'll hand out the boxes and envelopes to start the Guest at Your Table season.

The 2019-2020 theme is **Women Leaders, Strong Communities**. Since its founding, UUSC's work has been shaped and sustained by women's leadership. Today, they are proud to partner with women

— Welcome a —
Guest at Your Table



leaders who are increasing representation for women in their communities, while strengthening access to justice for all. Please join us to learn more about women leaders from UUSC partner organizations taking on some of today's greatest human rights challenges.

As you think about the gifts you have, and as you consider your charitable donations for the end of the year, **please donate** to become a member of the UUSC. It is a big step forward that you can take to defend human rights.

Contact Charlot Barker at email: **uuscc**.

Gun Violence Prevention

Tom Buglio was recently invited to Main Line Unitarian Church's Advocacy Day as the UUPLAN point person on gun violence prevention. Postcards were signed and sent to State Representative Rob Kauffman, head of the House Judiciary Committee, which held open hearings on gun issues in September.

UUPLAN has prioritized ERPO (extreme risk protection orders), which allow families, friends, and police to petition the courts to take guns away from persons who pose a danger to themselves and others. Unfortunately, after the hearings Chairman Kauffman said, "ERPO will not come up for a vote as long as he is chairman."

In the State Senate, Tom Killion has a bill on ERPO that has a chance to get passed. In a conversation with his office after the open hearings, Senator Killion's top aide said, "we are determined to get this done no matter how long it takes." If Senator Killion is your state senator, please call him at 717-787-4712 to thank him for his determination.

Don't forget that we have monthly teleconferences. If you wish to be on the email reminder list, please contact Tom Buglio at email: gun-safety.



UUPLAN had its semiannual meeting in Harrisburg on October 12. One thing that has become apparent, is that many UU's do not know what UUPLAN is. It stands for UU Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network. UUPLAN has prioritized these areas of Social Justice:

- Criminal Justice Reform
- Economic Justice
- Environmental Justice
- Good Government
- Gun Violence Prevention
- Immigration Justice
- Reproductive Justice

UUPLAN lobbies legislators in Harrisburg to pass laws that benefit Pennsylvanians in these areas. As such, UUPLAN embodies many of our Seven Principles: justice, equity and compassion in human relations, the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process, the respect for our interdependent web, and the goal of a world with peace, justice and liberty for all. It gives UUs a chance to put their beliefs into action.

A new UUPLAN pin to wear — *Democracy is not a spectator sport* — in this election season is a reminder to us all to participate in the democratic process, if we wish to see a better world.

— Tom Buglio UUPLAN Liaison

Fun & Fellowship

Folk Singing

The next **folk singing get-together** is Friday, November 15, at 7:30 p.m. We meet at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. All are welcome.

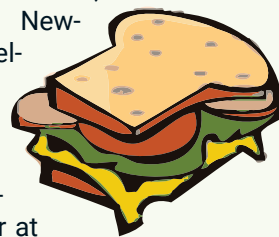
No singing talent or experience is necessary, just a desire to have fun. Capable musicians should bring your instruments. Bring a munchie, if you wish. Maps are in the foyer. Contact Steve at email: folk-singing.



Lunch Group

Lunch Group will meet Friday, November 15, 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.



Coffee House

This is a musical place. It's so clear every time we sing together at services. One quarter of us put "Music" top of the list when we survey what draws us to and keeps us at UCWC. Personally struck by how many talented musicians and singers we have here, Judy and I sought out UFWC friends for a series of Coffeehouses, which, to our delight continued for about ten years.

Our next Coffeehouse is Saturday November 9 from 7 to 9:30 in our sanctuary. We hope every UCWC music lover can come — performers and friends alike — to help us celebrate the special bond we share, and raise a few bucks for UCWC's good works as well.

Are you a performer? (We welcome comics, dancers, etc., too.) At 6:30 pm we'll put out a sign-up sheet and folks pick a slot. We ask that you respect a 15 min time limit to accommodate everyone.

If you're attending and can donate a dessert or snack, please do. Fun, fellowship, food times!

Please join us. Can we entice your assistance? Setup starts at 5 pm, and our core team would enjoy your company.

— Craig Talbot, email: [coffeehouse](mailto:coffeehouse@ucwc.org)



STOCKUNLIMITED.COM

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9 7 PM

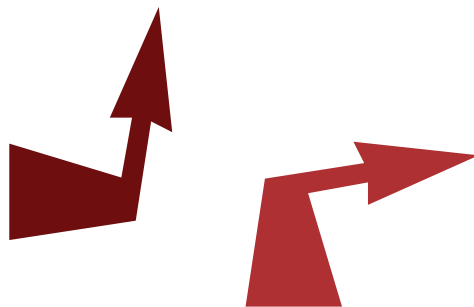
Unitarian Congregation of West Chester 501 South High Street in West Chester

**\$10 DONATION
BENEFITS
UCWC**

COFFEEHOUSE@UCWC.ORG
610-692-5966

**ACCOUSTIC
MUSIC!
REFRESHMENTS!
FUN FOR ALL!**

COFFEE HOUSE



**DON'T FORGET OUR BREAD AND SOUP
POTLUCK IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE
SINGLE 10 AM SERVICE ON NOVEMBER 24.**

BREAD & SOUP POTLUCK



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24
11:00 AFTER OUR ANNUAL BREAD SERVICE**

Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

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

Single Sunday
Service and
Potluck.
Soup & Bread!



Nov 1	Fri	Family Game Night. 6 pm. Sanctuary.
Nov 3	Sun	Defenders of Democracy. 10:30-11 am. Meditation Room. First Sunday Food Collection. See p. 7. Path to Membership Session 2. Noon. Downstairs. See p. 5. Adult RE Book Discussion, <i>Being Mortal</i> . 12:15 pm. Room 4. See p. 4.
Nov 4	Mon	Unitarian Universalist History and Theologies. 7 pm. Room 4. See p. 4.
Nov 5	Tue	Election Day. Vote your UU Principles.
Nov 9	Sat	Coffee House. 7 pm. UCWC. See p. 9.
Nov 10	Sun	Adult RE Book Discussion, <i>Being Mortal</i> . 12:15 pm. Room 4. See p. 4. Safe Harbor Dinner. 6 pm. Contact Rick London, email: safe-harbor . Diversity Book Group. 7 pm. Social Room. See p. 7. Religious Services Committee. 7 pm. Meditation Room.
Nov 11	Mon	Council Meeting. 7 pm. Lower Level.
Nov 12	Tue	Lunch Group. 11:30 am. Panera Bread. See p. 8.
Nov 15	Fri	Folk Singing. 7:30 pm. Home of Linda and Steve Sander. See p. 8.
Nov 16	Sat	Men's Group. 10 am. Room 4. See p. 5.
Nov 17	Sun	Share-the-Plate Sunday. Benefits the Baby Food Fund. See p. 6. Town Hall. Discuss hiring a new DLFD. Between services. SoulCollage® Sunday. 12:30-2:30 pm. Room 7. See p. 4.
Nov 19	Tue	Board Meeting. 6:30 pm. Social Room.
Nov 20	Wed	Transgender Day and Remembrance Vigil. 7 pm. UCWC. See p. 6.
Nov 24	Sun	Single Sunday Service and Potluck. Bread service at 10 am and soup and bread potluck at 11 am. See p. 9.

EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:

Sundays	Sunday Morning Meditation. 8:30 am. Meditation Room. Contact email: DLFD .
Three Sundays	Safe Harbor Holiday Fundraiser. November 3, 10, and 17. See p. 6.
Various Dates	Small Group Ministry (Several Active Groups). See web calendar or contact email: SGM . See p. 5.
Most Thursdays	Spirit Singers Practice. November 7, 14, and 21 at 7:15 pm. Sanctuary. Contact Miriam Davidson, email: choir .

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

501 South High Street
West Chester, PA 19382

Web: [www.ucwc.org](#)
All email addresses @ucwc.org

Rev. Daniel Schatz, Minister..... 610-692-4043 email: [minister](#)
Maggie Christy, Office Administrator 610-692-5966 email: [office](#)
Matt Zencey, President email: [president](#)
Pam Baxter, Director of Lifespan Faith Development email: [DLFD](#)
Steve and Linda Sander, *The Fellowtarian* Editors email: [fellowtarian](#)



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