ELLOWTARIA

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

I'm looking

decade. I hope

every sense of

the word.

January 2020



NOTES FROM REV. DAN ♬。ト゚

It is traditional, in January, to mark the changes in our lives. This is when we look over the

past twelve months, grieve our losses, and celebrate our accomplishments. In January we set goals, make

commitments, new and reaffirm old ones, anticipating changes in forward to this the year ahead.

Since this New Year's marks the turning of a it will be a time decade, we look behind a of growth, in little farther and ahead a little more. The teens are over, and we are officially living in the 20s.

As I look back, it's striking how many changes have come to our congregation over the past ten years. I wasn't here for most of the big decisions, but it's been wonderful to see the results - a beautifully renovated building, a reinvigorated congregation, a stepping up to service in the community all around us.

Over the past ten years we went from two services to one, and back to two. We've created a covenant and done visioning work together as a congregation, and have

begun to find new ways to reach into the community and welcome newcomers. (Hint - every Sunday is Bring a Friend Sunday!)

With the new year come new changes. Our Director of Lifespan Faith Development, Pam Baxter, who has served us for not one but

> two decades, is beginning to move into retirement. Pam will still be here through the Spring, but on fewer Sundays, and with reduced responsibilities, as we search for a new religious educator. She has worked closely with members of the Adult's and Children's Religious

Education Committees to plan for this transition.

There are other changes too - monthly newcomer information sessions with congregational leaders, new team leaders for Building and Membership, new members, new friends, and new opportunities as a congregation.

I'm looking forward to this decade. I hope it will be a time of growth, in every sense of the word. Welcome the new!

- 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.















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. Jan 5 9:15 and 11:00 am ON BEING A TREE HUGGER Rev. Nancy Dean

I grew up amongst over three hundred acres of fruit trees in orchards carefully nurtured by my father; but, what he did not know back then is the more recent discoveries that trees have an intricate communication system that makes a forest and even an orchard a living system, not just a lot of individual trees. Humans, too, need such a network of connection.

Jan 12 ONE HUNDRED Rev. Dan Schatz 9:15 and 11:00 am YEARS FROM NOW

With the turning of the decade, we take a moment to look ahead to what is to come. What do we envision for society? What will we make possible one hundred years from now?

Jan 19 LIFTING HANDS AND VOICES: Rev. Dan Schatz 9:15 and 11:00 am MLK SUNDAY

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born 90 years ago this month. As we honor his legacy, we carry it forward in our own work for justice.

Jan 26 GRACE FOR Rev. Dan Schatz 9:15 and 11:00 am MAVERICKS

Unitarian Universalists sometimes have a complicated relationship with words like "grace," "sin," "redemption" and even "God." If we explore the ideas behind them, we may find hidden treasures that help us in our own spiritual growth, whatever our personal beliefs.

NOTE: Our Annual RE Open House will be held during Coffee Hour after the 9:15 am service. People planning to attend the 11:00 service are welcome to come early to participate.

Thanks for Stepping Up

Thank you to the following members for stepping up to fill important roles here in our congregation:

- Building and Grounds team leader: Alan Pittenger
- Membership team leader:
 Lisa Kerschner
- Fundraising co-leaders:
 Janine Galen and Cathy Vogt



It takes an amazing range of behind-the-scenes effort from dozens of our members for us to be a thriving, vital and spiritually nourishing Unitarian Universalist community. When you see Alan, Lisa, Janine or Cathy, take a moment to say thanks for serving us all.

- Matt Zencey, Board President

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 with 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 Harriet Singer or Rev. Dan at email: SGM.

From the President

In the classic TV series "Mission Impossible," each episode would begin with special agent Mr. Phelps listening to a tape that informed him, "Your mission, should you choose to accept it ... "

Our mission statement will point us in a shared sense of direction, and it will quide what all of us do here in our beloved community.



As UUs on a spiritual journey in a religious community here at UCWC, we have accepted a mission, whether we realize it or not. So, what exactly is our mission?

In 2009, our members provided an answer. At 42 words (too long to reprint here), the mission they wrote back then centers on three themes: spiritual growth, building meaningful connections, and advancing peace and justice.

Much has happened since 2009 - in our congregation and the world - so your board is working on an update. That process will involve considerable spiritual reflection as well as consultation with you, our members.

Our work starts with many questions (This is a UU process after all!) including this one: "Why am I here at UCWC?"

We each have our own answer(s) to that question. Unitarian Universalism is not simply handed down to us by parents or the community we live in. It is our chosen faith, emphasis on "chosen." (Instead of "faith," some may prefer "values," or "principles" or "ethics.") Whatever the wording, we have chosen to be here in community at UCWC. And in doing so, we have accepted a mission.

In articulating that mission, we can draw some guidance from our beloved Unison Affirmation. The values and themes in it are deeply rooted here, and they will be a foundation for any mission statement we produce. In this work, we will also ask ourselves, "What do our UU values, our UU faith, call us to do?"

Rather than set specific tasks, our mission statement will point us in a shared sense of direction, and it will guide what all of us do here in our beloved community. We want to write it, so that we know how we can follow through on it, but we also realize that pursuing the mission is a process, not a trip to a destination. We will never display a banner proclaiming "Mission Accomplished."

As the board moves along in this work, we will reach out to hear your perspectives. We look forward to your participation.

Matt Zencey

Minister's Office Hours

Dan will be away from the office from December 26 - January 5.

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 in Connections.

Lifespan Faith Development

I talked to the children about the snowflakes being a metaphor for people: how, when we come together, we can have amazing impact — impact to make serious, notable change in the world.

Women's Retreat 2020 Friday, February 21 through Sunday, February 23 Temenos Retreat Center in West Chester Please register by January 5

Our annual Women's Retreat is 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. Registration forms are available in the lobby, or download and print one from our website.



REmarks Religious Education Update The Weight of a Snowflake

Last month, our Time for all Ages story described the cumulative power of one of the tiniest, and nearly weightless structures there is: the snowflake. I talked to the children about

the snowflakes being a metaphor for people: how, when we come together, we can have amazing impact — impact to make serious, notable change in the world.

We have a lovely example of that in the Adopt-a-Family program of the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County. This was the fourth year we signed up to take part, and we had the largest participation so far: 13 individuals signed up to "adopt" 20



women and children. The point is that while one person could not provide Christmas gifts for twenty people, thirteen people could. And did.

It was interesting to me to see how practical the requests were this year. Clothes, of course, were on most lists, but so were things like a bed for a toddler. The most poignant request was from a young woman, pregnant with her first child. She asked for gifts for the baby: a bassinet, sleepers, blankets, diapers, and bottles.

I could only imagine what it's like to be in hiding from an abusive husband while anticipating the birth of your first child. I was so heartened that we could grace this about-to-be mother with love and support, even though it would come to her anonymously.

Thanks to all who adopted someone this year, and also those who delivered the gifts to the drop-off center.

Pam Baxter
 Director of Lifespan Faith Development

RE Open House Sunday, January 26

Join the Religious Education Team for Coffee Hour downstairs after the 9:15 am service, and see where the children of our congregation hang out while you're upstairs. Get your beverage and food upstairs, then bring it downstairs while you browse the classrooms. We'll also have some food downstairs.

Learn more about the RE Program, and what the children and our wonderful volunteer teachers are doing on Sunday mornings. See you in RE!

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care
Team contact for
this month is
Cathy Vogt.



Men's Group

The Tuesday evening men's group will meet on January 7 at 7:00 pm downstairs in room 4. The topic will be "Moral foundations," and the presenters will be Bruce Neff and Eric Sweet. All men are welcome.



QAFTER EACHSERVICE

Do you have questions about Unitarian Universalism?

Are you curious about our congregation and what kind of community we strive to be?

Get coffee after the service and join us in the **Meditation Room** — just off the coat room.

We're looking forward to chatting with you.



Are You Willing to Lend A Helping Hand?

The Pastoral Care Team's mission is to fulfill our covenant to be in relationship with each other by bringing the care and support of the congregation to members in their time of need.

To support this mission, we maintain a Helping Hands List. The types of things that we need help with are:

- Preparing meals and visiting the sick
- Providing rides to medical appointments
- · Coordinating meals or rides

If you are willing to be on the Helping Hands List — so that we may contact you when there is a need — please contact us an email: **pastoral-care** or talk to a member of the Pastoral Care Team (purple ribbon on name tag).

No commitment is required. Requests will be managed by the Pastoral Care Team, and you only need to respond if you are willing and able to assist with an individual request.

Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

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

First Sunday Food Collection

This Month's Suggested Items: Canned Fruit

Our monthly collection for the West Chester Food Cupboard is Sunday, January 5. Look for the white collection basket in the coat closet.

In addition to the suggested items above, other non-per-ishable foods, personal care items, and household items are welcome — please 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 fight food insecurity. The Food Cupboard helps people right here, right now, because, "No one should go hungry."

Contact Steve Sander, email: food-cupboard.

Statement of Public Witness on Racism in the United States

Working with the Black Lives Matter Subcommittee of the Social Justice Committee, your Board of Trustees has approved the following Statement of Public Witness on Racism in the United States:

The Unitarian Congregation of West Chester condemns the rising tide of hate speech and direct acts of violence against minority populations in our country, which violate the Unitarian Universalist principles of the inherent worth and dignity of all people, and justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

Racism has been part of American society since its founding, through slavery, segregation, mass incarceration and brutality. The impact is evident today in continuing racial disparities in housing, education, health care, the labor market, politics, and criminal and environmental justice.

Our country has arrived at a crucial moment in its history, which offers the opportunity to confront these shameful realities, renew a commitment to racial justice and alleviate racial inequities.

We, the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester, explicitly and publicly pledge to meet this challenge and urge others in our community to join us.

Your Board has also adopted a resolution committing us to help our members understand these issues better, to examine how our nation's legacy of racism may be affecting our own operations, and to work with other groups that aim to eliminate racism and ensure justice for all.

> Matt Zencey, President UCWC Board of Trustees

Diversity Book Group

Sun, Jan 12 • 7:00-8:30 pm • Social Room

This month's book is *The Wonder* by Emma Donoghue. In the Irish Midlands in 1859 Lib Wright, and English nurse,

is summoned to a tiny village to observe what some are claiming as a medical anomaly or a miracle — a girl said to have survived without food for months. Tourists have flocked to the cabin of eleven-year-old Anna O'Donnell, and a journalist

has come down to cover the sensation.

The Wonder is a tale of two strangers who transform each other's lives, a psychological

thriller, and a story of love pitted against evil.

Pat Shorten will be our leader. Contact Debby Kern at email: diversity-book-group.



Refugee Resettlement Update

Isaac, Rebeka, and their five children arrived here in July 2016 from a refugee camp in Tanzania. UCWC members were a major part of the West Chester Area Refugee Resettlement Project, the coalition that helped the family adapt to living in the United States. They moved to Lancaster in July 2018.

Susan Brodesser and four others from the Project recently visited the family in their home in Lancaster. Susan reports that they are doing well. Rebeka had prepared a tasty dinner for them and a lot of happy chatter occurred around the table.

Isaac and Rebeka are working the same shift at the Urban Outfitters warehouse in Gap. Isaac has obtained a driver's license, and they drive to work in the Prius that had been generously donated by UCWC member Stephen Johnson.

The three older kids' English has improved, and they are doing well in their school's vocational training program. The youngest continues to have learning challenges but is receiving help.

The family bought new living room furniture, and they have a very large screen TV that was a gift from Maombi, their oldest daughter. Maombi now lives in Kansas City with her husband, parents-in-law, and her almost-one-year-old baby boy.

Gun Violence Prevention

Despite gun violence prevention measures stalling in Harrisburg and Washington, there is some recent good news. The Federal Government approved \$25 million in December to study Gun Violence. \$12.5 million will go to the CDC (Center for Disease Control) and

the CDC (Center for Disease Control) and \$12.5 million will go to the NIH (National Institute of Health).

This marks the first time in over 20 years that Federal money has been allocated for gun violence research. With 40,000 people dying every year by firearms, it is long overdue. Such studies have been proven effective in many other areas, such as cancer, heart disease, tobacco, and the opioid epidemic.

Join our statewide phone conversation on Gun Violence Prevention with our UUPLAN GVP phone call on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. Contact Tom Buglio to be put on the reminder list at email: gun-safety.

Tom Buglio

Defenders of Democracy



The House of Representatives has voted to Impeach President Trump. He is charged with abuse of power by using congressionally approved aid to solicit a foreign power to subvert our election system. He is also charged with obstruction of Congress during its impeachment investigation. This attempt to corrupt our electoral process strikes at the heart of our democracy — everything that Defenders of Democracy is fighting.

Holding the president accountable is the duty of every Congressperson as they uphold their oath to defend the constitution. Our congressperson, Chrissy Houlihan, was the last in the state to make up her mind, but she did vote to impeach.

She stated, "After reflection, I believe it is the right thing to do for our nation, and consistent with my oath of office. I grieve for our nation but cannot let history mark the behavior of our President as anything other than a violation of his oath of office." We could not agree more.

Please join us for our next meeting at UCWC, on Sunday, January 5, at 6:30 pm. We will take up two initiatives for the new year — promoting education about the state's new mail-in balloting law, and the UUA initiative, "UU The Vote" for the 2020 election.

Tom Buglio, Defenders of Democracy







UUPLAN

Our 2020 Membership Drive is underway. Please consider renewing your membership or joining UUPLAN for the first time.

It is vitally important that our legislators hear from us – now and into the 2020 election cycle. UUPLAN is our voice in Harrisburg. We fight for fair and just policies that reflect the inherent worth and dignity of every one of us and the interdependent web of life.

The annual suggested membership fee is \$40; but feel free to increase or decrease that amount as you feel appropriate.

 Your membership will continue to fund our Harrisburg-based Director of Legislative Affairs, Rev. Joan Sabatino. She lobbies state legislators and invites Pennsylvania UUs to Harrisburg to lobby and attend rallies in our Capitol.

- Your membership contribution will mean that our members are better informed about important legislation and when to join us for a unified effort to support legislation that is aligned with our values.
- Your membership contribution will mean that UUs across the state can come together with partner organizations that amplify our voice and influence.

Please join us as we demand good government and hold our state representatives and senators accountable.

Join or Renew Your Membership Now.

— Tom Buglio

UUSC Update - Guest at Your Table

With the new year arriving, we think about what we've done and what our plans are for the coming year. If you haven't already, please take a moment to make your donation to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. You can donate here and check this item off your to-do list,



or use the QR code (left) with your phone. Any donation makes you a proud UUSC member, and gifts of \$125 or more are matched dollar for dollar by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock.

If you have been collecting money in a Guest at Your Table box, please convert it to a check and put it in the collection plate on any Sunday through the end of January. Write the check to "UCWC" with "UUSC GAYT" in the memo line.

To donate by mail please write checks to "UUSC" with "GAYT" in the memo line and send to:

Guest at Your Table UUSC PO Box 808 Newark, NJ 07101-0808



If you donate by mail, please be sure to include that you are from the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester. We are aiming for 100% UUSC membership.

Guest at Your Table is the annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues, UUSC's grass roots partnerships, and to learn about just four of these partners, the "guests" at Guest at Your Table. Our children distributed GAYT boxes, booklets, and envelopes and demonstrated using the QR code at our November bread communion service. See the November Fellowtarian p.7.

Thank you.

- Charlot Barker and Linda Sander

Share-the-Plate Generosity

We are pleased to announce the share-the-plate recipient for January 19 (third Sunday of the month), Healthy Start Maternal and Child Health Consortium of Chester County

Please note the following as you prepare your donation:

- If you want the money to go toward your pledge, you must write "pledge" in the memo line.
- If you want your money to go entirely to the charity, you must write "all to charity" in the memo line.
- If you want to split the money with the charity, you must write "50/50" in the memo line.
- If there is nothing in the memo line, 100% will go to UCWC as a general donation— not as a pledge.

Contact Emily Sweet at email: share-the-plate.

Martin Luther King Day of Service Be A Volunteer

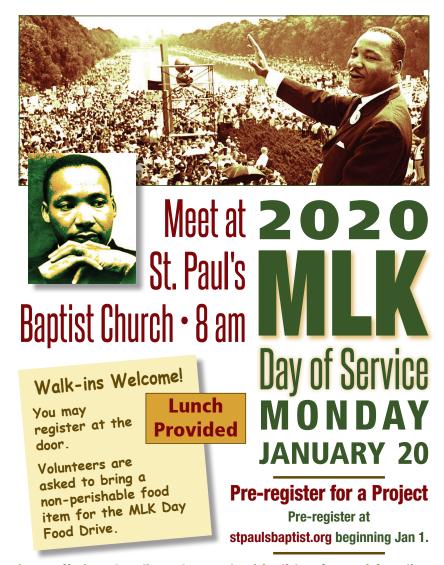
Beginning January 1, volunteers can go the St. Paul's MLK Day website to review the list of projects and pre-register for their first and second choice of projects on-line. (Watch *Connections* for details.)

Event planners encourage volunteers to participate in projects that offer the opportunity to work with volunteers from other churches and organizations, exploring and expanding community relationships. Two exceptions are a team of five UCWC members to visit with residents at a local nursing home, and a UCWC team to assist Ed Cohle with the grocery store drive. Each volunteer is asked to bring a non-perishable food item to support the food drive.

We are also looking for from nine to twelve UCWC volunteers to help with organizational and logistical details as volunteers gather at St. Pauls' on the morning of the event. Please contact Shelly Case (email: MLK) if you would like to help.

Volunteers will gather at St. Paul's Baptist Church at 8:00 am on Monday, January 20. There will be a short orientation session, and then volunteers will depart for project sites. After the morning of service, volunteers are invited to return to St. Paul's for a fellowship lunch and a program to share and reflect on the day's experiences — many of us feel that this is the highlight of the day.

Please direct questions to email: MLK or speak with Shelly Case or Sandy Schaal in person.



In case of inclement weather, go to ${\color{blue} www.stpaulsbaptist.org} \ for \ more\ information.$

Each January...

...we join St. Paul's Baptist Church to celebrate and honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Together we participate in community outreach service projects throughout the greater West Chester area. St. Paul's partners with UCWC, other local churches, civic organizations, and community agencies to make a positive difference in our community. This is the sixteenth year that St. Paul's has hosted this event.

The overall objectives of MLK Day are to remind some and educate others about the life of Dr. King and his contributions to this country and the world while providing service within our community.

Fun & Fellowship

Last Holiday Party January 4

One last chance to celebrate the Holiday Season! Join us at the home of Janet and Lowell Young for an Open House on January 4, from 5:00-9:00 pm. RSVP recommended. Please bring a finger food to share.



UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF WEST CHESTER



SATURDAY JANUARY 25 7 PM To 10 PM ?????? 501 S HIGH ST

501 S HIGH ST WEST CHESTER

33333

Donation \$10 per personReduced family rate \$5 per person

3 or more family members in your group

ucwc.org office@ucwc.org

610-692-5966

CREATE
YOUR OWN
TEAM.
6 PERSONS
PER TEAM

MAX.

Prizes and Bragging Rights For the Winning Team!

COME AND PLAY!

NO ONE YURNED AWAY!

Folk Singing

The next **folk singing get-together** is Friday, January 17, 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, January 17, 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 December events.

Tpivia Night Have you gathered your team?



Jan 3	Fri	Game Night. 6 pm. Sanctuary.		
Jan 4	Sat	Holiday Party. Home of Janet and Lowell Young. 6-9 pm. See p. 10.		
Jan 5	Sun	First Sunday Food Collection. See p. 6. Deadline to Sign Up for the Women's Retreat. See p. 4.		
		Defenders of Democracy. 6:30 pm. Meditation Room. See p. 7.		
Jan 7	Tue	Men's Group. 7 pm. Room 4. See p. 5.		
Jan 12	Sun	Adult RE Film and Discussion Session. 12:30-2:30.		
		Safe Harbor Dinner. 6 pm. Contact Rick London, email: safe-harbor.		
		Diversity Book Group. 7-8:30 pm. Social Room. See p. 6.		
Jan 13	Mon	Religious Services Committee. 7 pm. Meditation Room.		
Jan 14	Tue	Council Meeting. 7 pm. Lower Level.		
Jan 15	Wed	Religious Education Committee. 7 pm. Meditation Room.		
Jan 17	Fri	Lunch Group. 11:30 am. Panera Bread. See p. 10.		
		Folk Singing. 7:30 pm. Home of Linda and Steve Sander.		

Jan 15 Wed Religious Education Committee. 7 pm. Meditation Room

Jan 17 Fri Lunch Group. 11:30 am. Panera Bread. See p. 10.

Folk Singing. 7:30 pm. Home of Linda and Steve Sander.

See p. 10.

Jan 19 Sun Share-the-Plate Sunday. Benefits MCHC Healthy Start.

See p. 8.

Manthly 08 A 10:30 am and 13:15 pm. Meditation Room

Monthly Q&A. 10:30 am and 12:15 pm. Meditation Room. See p. 5.

SoulCollage® Sunday. 12:30 pm. Room 26.

Jan 20MonMLK Day of Service. See p. 9.Jan 21TueBoard Meeting. 6:30 pm. Social Room.

Gun Violence Prevention Teleconference. 7 pm. See p. 7.

Jan 25SatTrivia Night. 7 pm. Sanctuary. See p. 10.Jan 26SunRE Open House. Downstairs. See p. 4.

EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:

Sundays Sunday Morning Meditation. 8:30 am. Meditation Room.

Contact email: DLFD.

Sundays Stewardship Committee. 10:30 am. Contact Pam Saplo,

email: stewardship.

Various Dates Small Group Ministry (Several Active Groups). See web

calendar or contact email: SGM. See p. 2.

Most Thursdays Spirit Singers Practice. Jan 2, 9, 16 and 30 at 7:15 pm.

Sanctuary. Contact Miriam Davidson, email: choir.

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

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Rev. Daniel Schatz, Minister Maggie Christy, Office Administrator Matt Zencey, President	610-692-5966	email: office
Pam Baxter, Director of Lifespan Faith Dev Steve and Linda Sander, <i>The Fellowtarian</i>	•	



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