

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

February 2020



NOTES FROM REV. DAN

I am a messy desk person. I take no pride in this, and do not pretend it is the best way to be, but at the age of 47 I've had to come to a certain amount of peace with it. I am, and to some extent will probably always be, a messy desk person.

There are certain advantages. For one thing, I save time cleaning, although I suspect I spend much of that time digging through piles looking for things. But every once in a while, digging through the strata, I come upon some old and wonderful treasure.

It could be a piece of mail from long ago, or an old thank you card, or a question from the Ask the Minister Service three years ago. It might be a photograph I'd forgotten about, or an article I had put aside for a future sermon that turns out to be just what I needed. Sometimes, that wonderful find can make my whole day.

But every once in a while, digging through the strata, I come upon some old and wonderful treasure.

Again, there's no virtue in this. It is what it is. But there is a metaphor, because very often our lives are messy too. As much as we try to keep things neat and in order, sometimes everything gets jumbled up, and things get put aside for a while, where they pile up, and we forget about them.

Then, we go back, for whatever reason, and happen upon whatever it is we left aside. That book we were going to read, that trip we were going to take, that old friend we were going to get back in touch with, that volunteering for the NAACP. It might be too late — the time has passed, and we just need to let it go. But other times, we find ourselves picking up where we left off, discovering that what we left aside so long ago has become exactly the blessing we needed right now.

As you dig through the complexities and messiness of your life or your desk, I hope you find the blessings. They are there, waiting.

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.

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**.



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.

**Feb 2
9:15 and 11:00 am**

**LIFT
EVERY VOICE**

Rev. Dan Schatz

We begin Black History Month with a special service centering around the song "Lift Every Voice and Sing," and its message for us as we lift our voices and hands for justice.

**Feb 9
9:15 and 11:00 am**

**A WORLD
OF CHOCOLATE**

Rev. Dan Schatz

The annual Feast of Decadent Chocolate is a beloved event in our congregation. In our special all ages service we will celebrate diversity through this most beloved of substances.

Between services we will celebrate our feast. Contributions of sweet and savory dishes made with fair trade chocolate are welcome.

**Feb 16
9:15 and 11:00 am**

**A PLATEFUL OF
SUSTAINABILITY**

**Kathy Beatty and
Joshua Munz**

Two dictionary definitions of Sustainability are "The ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level." and the "Avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance." As a society are our current food choices maintaining an ecological balance, and can they be maintained at the current level? In this service we'll explore together how our decisions about what food is on our plate and where it comes from are closely tied to the principles of Unitarian Universalism, our health, and our community.

**Feb 23
9:15 and 11:00 am**

**BREATH DEEP.
LET GO.**

Rev. Dan Schatz

How can we cultivate a practice of leaving behind what gets in the way of our growth?

Feast of Decadent Chocolate

**February 9
Between the Services**

The Sunday before Valentine's Day is our traditional feast day. Members bring a favorite chocolate dessert (preferably homemade and from fair trade chocolate) to share at coffee hour between the two services.

Non-chocolate items are also welcome. To help those with special dietary concerns, a list of ingredients would be helpful.



PIXABAY.COM

From the President

I sit down to write this on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, which is appropriate, because Rev. Dr. King and the movement he led offer an example that I badly need.



For a long time, I have been fighting off despair about the current direction of the country. I'm seething with anger at those in power who have proven they are willing to shamelessly and repeatedly lie and wantonly break the rules, written and unwritten, that keep conflict within manageable bounds in our system of government.

It seems that if people like me keep following the old rules of fair play, we are just being suckers. It is so tempting to indulge the internal voice that's telling me: Be realistic. You can't fight fair against forces that are willing to do whatever it takes to stay in power. Tell them "OK, if that's the way you want to do things, the gloves are off. Tit for tat. Let's rumble. When our side comes into power, we're going to do to you what you did to us. You're gonna be S-O-R-R-Y!"

And so I wonder...how did civil rights protestors manage to maintain such grace when confronting much worse oppression – brutal and violent government forces determined to crush them? The protestors were beaten, and blasted with fire hoses, and bitten by vicious dogs, and put in jail, and railroaded through a racist system of so-called justice. They suffered all that without lashing back in violence. Again and again and again.

Dr. King, in what's known as his "Love Your Enemies" speech, explained why one must not respond in kind, saying it only sets off "a descending spiral, ultimately ending in destruction for all and everybody."

"Hate," he said, "distorts the personality of the hater." We all have a mix of good and evil within us, so he urged us to "discover the element of good in your enemy" – to remember the humanity of those who are on the side of oppression and offer them the universal healing force of love. In UU terms, we'd say that we need to respect their inherent worth and dignity.

"The strong person," Rev. Dr. King said, "is the person who can cut off the chain of hate, the chain of evil...and inject within the very structure of the universe that strong and powerful element of love."

I don't know if I'm that strong, but my UU faith calls me to try.

– Matt Zencey

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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

Even as we transition, we are continuing to innovate so that the young people of our congregation learn and live our UU values.

Men's Group

The Tuesday evening men's group will meet on February 4 at 7:00 pm downstairs in room 4. The topic will be "Conscience and Morality," and the presenter will be Dirk Troltenier. All men are welcome.

Contact Dirk Troltenier at email: mens-group.

Pastoral Care

The **Pastoral Care Team** contact for this month is **Carolyn LaTulip**



REmarks: Religious Education Update

You would normally see something from Pam Baxter in this space. As we transition to a new DLFD, and Pam reduces her hours, the members of the RE Committee are taking on some of the responsibilities that go with the position. Some of this is happening behind the scenes, like writing this column for the *Fellowtarian*, and some where you can see us, like taking on the role of Acting DLFD on Sundays when Pam is not downstairs during RE.

Transitions can be difficult for all of us, especially if we're not sure what is going on during these times. If you have questions about our Religious Education program that you would normally ask Pam, you can find me if Pam is not in the building (it's almost a guarantee I'll be there). I will either have your answer, or I will track it down and get it to you.

Classes will continue as they always do. We have storytellers for Spirit Play, teachers for our Toolbox of Faith, Crossing Paths, and Coming of Age classes, and a thriving Youth Group once more. We will have two special services this spring: our Coming of Age service to honor this class of students and our Youth Group service.

Even as we transition, we are continuing to innovate so that the young people of our congregation learn and live our UU values. Have you seen our new Youth Ambassador? Every Sunday morning, we aim to have one of the older children in our congregation in the lobby, greeting all children who come through our doors, whether each child is a new visitor or a longtime friend. You can recognize our Ambassador by the yellow sash with rainbow edging.

— Sarah Hyson, Chair, Religious Education Committee
email: RE

The Membership Committee Wants Your Input



LISA KERSCHNER

Do you remember what it felt like when YOU first came in the door at UCWC? Were you curious? Excited? Nervous? Looking for a home? Incredulous you were stepping in? We all stepped through that door for a reason. What made you stay? What made you want to return? What inspired you to become a regular friend or member?

Your Membership Committee would like to know your answers and feedback: What made you feel welcome as a visitor? What made you keep coming back? What worked and what didn't work for YOU? Contact us at email: membership with your memories, thoughts, and suggestions for welcoming and including visitors at UCWC.

We are all involved in the membership of our community. An easy way to introduce UCWC to your friends this month? Invite them to the **Feast of Decadent Chocolate** and the **Valentine Dance**.



LEAP INTO ACTION

Stewardship Kickoff Celebration Dinner

**Saturday, February 29
5:00-8:00 pm at UCWC**

Get ready for our free, family-friendly dinner and evening of fun and fellowship, as we kick off our 2020 Stewardship Campaign.

Because our dinner falls on leap-day, this year's campaign is titled "Leap into Action".

Invitations will be mailed, and details will follow. Children are welcome.

Please contact Pam Sapko at email: **stewardship**, if you have questions.

**Thanks to all who
participated in the
MLK Day of Service
on January 20.**

Baby caps knitted by participants
working in the UCWC sanctuary.



Grocery Store Gift Cards

...and Panera
and Starbucks, Too

Do you buy groceries? An easy way to contribute to UCWC at no expense to you is to buy gift cards from our team. We sell cards in \$25, \$50, and \$100 denominations for Giant, Acme, and Shop-Rite.

The cards work just like cash at these generous merchants, and UCWC keeps 5% of the proceeds. And now we also have Panera (8%) and Starbucks (7%) cards, too.

Look for our table at the back of the sanctuary every Sunday between the services. Checks and cash are accepted. Sorry, but we cannot accept credit cards.

NOTE: Now that Panera is part of the program, our monthly **lunch groups** will be fundraisers, if you pay with our gift cards.

UCWC DINE 'n' Donate Shoo Mama's ~farm fresh café~

The Commons of Thornbury Shopping Center
Southeast Corner of Routes 202 and 926

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 • 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM
BREAKFAST/LUNCH • DINE IN OR TAKE OUT



Menu: shoomamascafe.com
UCWC Contact: fun@ucwc.org

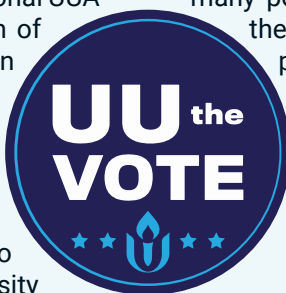
*Watch Connections and
the UCWC website for a
voucher to present
to the cashier.*

*Shoo Mama's will donate
15% of your bill to UCWC.*

Defenders of Democracy

Defenders of Democracy will be the point group spearheading UCWC efforts with the national UUA campaign of 'UU The Vote'. The election of 2020 looks to be a watershed moment in the direction of this nation.

Will America choose to continue trends toward racism, xenophobia, divisiveness, and outright dishonesty by those at the highest level of government, or will the country choose leaders who promote healing, working together, diversity and the inherent value in all Americans as well as immigrants?



DOD will mainly be involved in helping to get as many people to vote as possible, and in spreading the word about the new Pennsylvania law that permits people to vote by mail, which should increase voter participation.

Learn more about this national campaign at uuthevote.org. We invite you to join us in our efforts. Join our meetings on the first Sunday of the month at 6:30 pm.

— Tom Buglio, Charlot Barker, Matt Zencey
Email: democracy

Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

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

*Black Lives Matter
Committee members
have a black and yellow
ribbon on their
name tags.*

Black Lives Matter Committee

Our committee highly recommends the Jubilee Anti-Racism Training on March 27-29 at the UU Church of Delaware County in Media. The workshop helps participants understand what is involved in nurturing a multicultural community and working against racism in all its forms. This benefits you, our congregation, and our wider community.

Feel free to contact anyone on our committee (yellow and black ribbon on their nametags) about our experiences with this workshop. [Learn more](#) and [register here](#). Scholarship funds are available from UCWC.

The BLM Committee, having written and received approval for a "Statement of Public Witness

on Racism in the United States", is in the process of formulating projects for the spring.

Several of our members participate in community workshops and Education Equity in the West Chester Area School District programs, learning ways to enlighten our congregation about racial justice issues.

Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

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.

UUSC Update

Because successful movements must be led by those most affected by injustice, over 90% of UUSC's partners this year were led by women, immigrants, Indigenous Peoples, people of color, people identifying as LGBTQI, and/or people living with disabilities.

Most are leading smaller, emerging organizations – more than two-thirds of our partners operated with annual budgets of less than \$500,000 this year.

Yet, many have been able to use our support to expand the scope of their work, strengthen their organizations, and increase their impact, growing from "emerging" leaders to powerful forces for change.

UUSC believes in eye-to-eye involvement. As one of our partners said, "We don't consider UUSC as our donor, we consider UUSC as our longstanding partner."

Click [here](#) to see *Strengthening Grassroots Movements for Systemic Change*, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Impact Statement for FY 2019.

Another world is possible, one that celebrates the inherent dignity of every human being and one where everyone has a place they can call home. And the good news is we already have all the tools we need to create it.

Thank you to everyone who donated to UUSC during our annual Guest At Your Table program. You can still donate [here](#). Any donation makes you a member.



Diversity Book Group

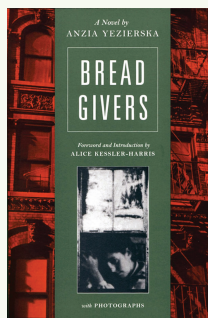
Sun, Feb 9 7:00-8:30 pm Social Room.

Our book this month is *Bread Givers* by Anzia Yezierska. The discussion will be led by Elaine Friedlander.

This masterwork of American immigrant literature is set in the 1920s on the Lower East Side of Manhattan and tells the story of Sara Smolinsky, the youngest daughter of an Orthodox rabbi, who rebels against her father's rigid conception of Jewish womanhood.

Sarah's struggle towards independence and self-fulfillment resonates with a passion all can share. Beautifully redesigned page for page with the previous editions, *Bread Givers* is an essential historical work with enduring relevance.

Contact Debby Kern, email: diversity-book-group.



Share-the-Plate Generosity

The Social Justice Committee's **Share-the-Plate program** raises money to give to local non-profit organizations working to improve life for Chester County residents. We are pleased to announce the share-the-plate recipient for February 16 (third Sunday of the month), **Open Hearth**.

Open Hearth is a non-profit organization that provides innovative programs to help people end the cycle of homelessness and achieve financial self-sufficiency. Through its own direct provision of services, as well as an established network of other nonprofits, Open Hearth supports and empowers people as they acquire affordable housing, a means of transportation, and financial viability.



The focus of the organization is confronting the economic and social barriers that prevent large segments of our society from achieving their dream of a place to live and a life of independence. Those served include at-risk populations, low-income households, people with disabilities, single parents, the elderly, and homeless individuals and families.

Please note the following as you prepare your donation for the plate:

- If you want to split the money with the charity, please write "**50/50**" in the memo line.
- If you want your money to go entirely to the charity, please write "**all to charity**" in the memo line.
- If you want the money to go toward your annual pledge, please write "**annual pledge**" in the memo line.
- If you want the money to go toward your capital pledge, please write "**capital pledge**" 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.**

Thank you for your generosity to December recipient, The Domestic Violence Center, in the amount of \$665.

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

First Sunday Food Collection

This Month's Suggested Items:

Personal Care Items (shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant)

Our **monthly collection** for the **West Chester Food Cupboard** is Sunday, February 2. Look for the white collection basket in the coat closet. In addition to the suggested items above, other non-perishable foods, personal care items, and household items are welcome — 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.

Fun & Fellowship

THEY'RE BACK!!!

House band and perennial favorites, *Who Needs Nigel?*, will return yet again for a Valentine Dance on Saturday, February 15, at 7 pm. For those who still need an introduction, WNN have entertained UCWC and beyond for well over a decade with their unique blend of '60's-'70's rock, pop, and r & b tunes. The beat goes on.

So bring your dancing shoes and enjoy a relaxed, if frenzied, evening. Dance, dance, dance the night away.

Our thanks to the sponsors who supported us at the service auction. Others are asked for a suggested \$10 donation for all the good works UCWC does. See you there. Rock On!

SAT FEB 15 7 PM

VALENTINE



DANCE

60'S & 70'S ROCK BAND
WHO NEEDS NIGEL?
FREE ADMISSION DONATIONS WELCOME

STEPHEN SANDER

Lunch Group

Lunch Group will meet Friday, February 21, at 11:30 a.m. at Panera Bread, 1103 West Chester Pike, near ShopRite. Newcomers are welcome.

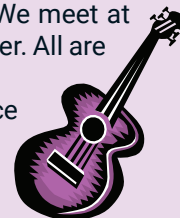
To be added to the email reminder list, contact Linda Sander at email: **lunch-group**. The reminders are an easy way to RSVP, so we can save enough seats for everyone. If you don't have email, or if you change your mind at the last minute, come anyway. Everyone is welcome.



Folk Singing

The next **folk singing get-together** is Friday, February 21, 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**.



Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

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


at the
**Stewardship Kickoff
Celebration Dinner
February 29**



Feb 2	Sun	First Sunday Food Collection. See p. 8. Dine 'n' Donate. 7:30 am - 4:00 pm. Shoo Mama's Café. See p. 6. Defenders of Democracy. 6:30 pm. Meditation Rm. See p. 6.
Feb 4	Tue	Executive Committee. 6:30 pm. Minister's Office. Everyday Spiritual Practice. 7-9 pm. Meditation Room. Men's Group. 7 pm. Room 4. See p. 4.
Feb 5	Wed	Small Group Facilitators. 7 pm. Meditation Rm.
Feb 7	Fri	Family Game Night. 6 pm. Sanctuary.
Feb 9	Sun	Feast of Decadent Chocolate. 10:15 am. See p. 2. Safe Harbor Dinner. 6 pm. Contact Rick London, email: safe-harbor . Diversity Book Group. 7 pm. Social Room. See p. 8.
Feb 10	Mon	Religious Services Committee. 7 pm. Meditation Room.
Feb 11	Tue	Council Meeting. 7 pm. Social Room.
Feb 12	Wed	Safe Harbor Dinner. 6 pm. Contact Rick London, email: safe-harbor .
Feb 15	Sat	Valentine's Dance. 7 pm. UCWC. See p. 9.
Feb 16	Sun	Share-the-Plate Sunday. Benefits Open Hearth. See p. 8. Monthly Q&A. 10:15 am and 12:00 pm. Meditation Rm. SoulCollage® Sunday. 12:30 pm. Room 7.
Feb 18	Tue	Board Meeting. 6:30 pm. Social Room. Gun Violence Prevention Teleconference. 7 pm.
Feb 19	Wed	Religious Ed. Committee. 7 pm. Meditation Room.
Feb 21	Fri	Lunch Group. 11:30 am. Panera Bread. See p. 9. Folk Singing. 7:30 pm. Home of Linda and Steve Sander. See p. 9.
Feb 21-23	Fri-Sun	Annual Women's Retreat.
Feb 29	Sat	Stewardship Kickoff Celebration Dinner. 5 pm. See p. 5.

EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:

Sundays	Sunday Morning Meditation. 8:30 am. Meditation Rm.
Various Dates	Small Group Ministry (Several Active Groups). See web calendar or contact email: SGM . See p. 1.
Most Thursdays	Spirit Singers Practice. Feb 6, 13, and 27 at 7:15 pm. Sanctuary. Contact Miriam Davidson, email: choir .

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Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

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