

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

March 2020



NOTES FROM REV. DAN

"How much should I give?" It's a question that comes up every year at Stewardship time. And the answer, of course, is, "Give according to your means — not until it hurts, but until it helps." Sometimes that isn't quite enough guidance, though, which is why I love the "Heart Guide," from our congregation in Northampton, Massachusetts:



RED households include at least one member with a well-paying job, or a good pension or income-producing assets. Red contributors have discretionary income and could travel abroad. A red pledge is \$350 to \$700/month or more.



MAGENTA households have a reasonably high income but may have kids in college or other obligations. Magenta's pledge is \$150 to \$400/month.



PURPLE households may be retired and/or living on a fixed income, or income that is up one year and down the next. A purple pledge is \$50 to \$200/month.



BLUE does not have a lot of money to spare. Blue may be a single parent family, or unemployed, or living on Social Security, or raising a big family. Most blue individuals pledge an average of \$20 to \$75/month.

Each of the categories reflects a wide range of pledges and abilities to give. They overlap, because for some people, \$375 a month isn't too much, while for others, it's a major gift. Some are able to give a great deal more. Every gift is reason for gratitude.

This year's Stewardship Theme — "Leap into Action" — plays on our February 29 Leap Day Stewardship Kickoff celebration. (Look for happy frogs to begin appearing in and around the building.) As you consider your pledge this year, I hope you'll make a leap in giving if you are able. Maybe you'll look at the Heart Guide, realize that you're ready to move into a new category, and increase your giving accordingly. Maybe you'll leap ahead

within a category. Maybe you'll just increase your pledge by 10%, 25%, or more.

Of course, not everyone can do that — life circumstances do not always allow it — which means those of us who are able need to leap a little bit further. We do it gladly, because in the end, our congregation is about community, and in community we serve one another's needs.

So this year, I hope you make a leap! And I look forward to joining you for an evening of pure all ages celebration on February 29. (Help out by **RSVPing**.) Together, I believe our congregation can leap ahead.

— 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.



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.*

Mar 1
9:15 and 11:00 am

A LEAP OF FAITH

Rev. Dan Schatz

Our congregation has taken many leaps over the years – how do we take the next leap together? This service will feature special music and member testimonials, as well as a message from Rev. Schatz.

Mar 8
9:15 and 11:00 am

**THE MIND-BODY
CONNECTION: AREN'T
WE MISSING SOMETHING?**

Rev. Dr. Gabriele Parks

The words “soul” and “spirit” will be frequently used in this sermon. But don’t worry: the topic has nothing to do with religion or theology. Rev. Dr. Parks will share with you her hypothesis that all humans have a soul, and that it becomes more and more important for us to be aware of that fact.

The Reverend Dr. Gabriele Parks came to the United States from Germany in 1991, with her husband Roger and her then six-year-old twins. Reverend Gabi discovered UUism in Columbia, Maryland, where she joined UUC in 1996. After serving in many volunteer roles, she felt the call to UU ministry, and went to Lancaster Theological Seminary in 2001 where she received her Masters of Divinity after three years. Since then, she has served five congregations all over the United States, as an intentional interim/transition minister. In 2015, she went back to seminary, this time to Wesley in Washington, DC, where she graduated with the Doctor of Ministry in the field of Narrative Theology.

She has served her congregation in York, Pennsylvania, until her retirement in February of 2019. She now serves four cats, her husband, and one rambunctious dog.

NOTE: Daylight Savings Time begins. Remember to move your clocks ahead one hour...and get up in time for today's service.



Mar 15
9:15 and 11:00 am

SPROUTINGS

Rev. Dan Schatz

Sometimes, it takes a long while for the seeds we plant to grow and blossom. As we learn to live with uncertainty, we often find that the seeds we plant in life take root in unexpected ways.

Mar 22
9:15 and 11:00 am

**HELLO,
I MUST BE GOING**

Pam Baxter

Pamela Baxter, our Director of Lifespan Faith Development since 2001, is retiring at the end of June. Before she goes, she will take a moment to reflect on the choices and forces that brought her to UCWC, and what the past twenty years working on behalf of our congregation have meant to her.

This Sunday Rev. Dan will be downstairs with the Religious Education program.

Mar 29
9:15 and 11:00 am

**WHAT DOES “VISIBLE” MEAN?
GENDER IDENTITY
IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

**Rev. Dan Schatz
& UCWC Members**

Gender identity is, for many, a journey of discovery and ownership of self. Like all journeys, it comes with deep spiritual insights. This year, we celebrate Transgender Day of Visibility with this special service, as well as a panel discussion on March 31, to continue the conversation and the celebration of all identities.

From the President

Coming in March: We will hold a Town Hall between services on March 15. After quick updates on finances and other news, the main order of business is to give you a chance to talk about what UCWC means to you. Your thoughts will guide the board and Rev. Dan in our work to update our UCWC mission statement. Just as importantly, joining the discussion is a chance for you to step back and reflect on how being here at UCWC helps guide your search for truth and meaning.



At the Town Hall, we will break into small groups and ask you to consider questions like, “Why are you here at UCWC? What does UCWC mean to you? How has being in community at UCWC transformed your life?” As I think about those questions, I value being in community with those who stand for truth, work for justice, and respect the humanity of every person. I also appreciate reflecting on the Big Questions in life. (In college, I minored in philosophy.) I’m a retired journalist, and I’ve long thought UUism is a perfect fit for those in my profession. Journalists are always questioning, trying to get at the truth — just like UUs.

As someone whose rational side is far more developed than his spiritual side, I’m glad that at UCWC, we tend to the heart as well as the head. I recently read a beautiful line in a UU testimonial: “We have sparks of divinity sewn into our souls.” Encountering perspectives like that help balance my strong secular tendencies.

Being UU helps me remember that every person holds goodness (or at least the potential for goodness), simply by being human. As Rev. Dan says, our principles talk about “inherent worth and dignity” of every person, not “apparent worth and dignity.” UCWC is a community that brings me closer to the person I want to be — and need to be.

By nature, I’m generally a pessimist, hyper-aware of all that is wrong in our country and across the globe. I appreciate that UCWC offers a brighter way of looking at what is possible in the world. (Right now, I’m humming a line from one of our hymns, “I’ll give you hope, when hope is hard to find.”)

Because we are UUs, each of us will have our own unique perspective on the reasons we are here and what our community means to us. I look forward to sharing our thoughts on March 15.

— Matt

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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.

2020-2021 Stewardship Campaign



We welcome
financial
commitments in
all amounts.

How much
you give is
up to you,
and depends
on your
circumstances.
In the spirit of
joyful giving,
here is a color-
coded guide.

Leap to the Next Level

As you think about your monthly pledge for next year, consider leaping to the next level. What would a leap from \$125/mo to \$150/mo look like in your budget? Or from \$275/mo to \$300/mo? If we all make a leap, we can move mountains.

Think of your pledge as a membership, not a charity. It is our pledges that makes UCWC a vibrant place to worship and to share our values.

Click [here](#) to find out more about pledge levels.

In addition you may want to attend our informative session on Saturday, March 7, from 10 to 11 am downstairs to learn more about our dreams; about why we need stewardship; and share your ideas and questions. Please RSVP to email: [stewardship](#) if you need babysitting.

CLICK
HERE
TO PLEDGE

Monthly Giving at UCWC 2019-2020

Number of Pledges in Each Giving Group



How Much Should I Give? Heart Pledge Guide

Adapted from the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence



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Lifespan Faith Development

REmarks – Religious Education Update Out of the Basement and Up to the Pulpit

As you know, I'm winding down to my retirement from UCWC on June 30. For these last several months, I'm working just ten hours a week. When Rev. Dan asked me recently, "How's it going?" I told him it feels a little like I'm working from Mars: remote. I'm so used to being here on Sundays, it feels a bit alien to show up just every other week, and while I'm looking forward to retiring, I'm trying to savor every minute of being part of the Sunday life of RE and the congregation.



One thing I'm particularly looking forward to is presenting the sermon on March 22. I'll be reflecting on the choices and forces that brought me to UCWC, and what the past twenty years working on behalf of this congregation have meant to me. I'm so looking forward to sharing this with you, and I hope you can be there.

— Pam Baxter, **Director of Lifespan Faith Development**

Spring Events for Newcomers



It is exciting to see many new faces in our midst. In addition to our services, social hours, and other events, we have several ways for newcomers to find out more about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism:

Question and Answer Sessions. Monthly. One Sunday of every month, congregational leaders will be available after each service in the Meditation Room to answer any questions you may have about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism. Our Question and Answer session for March will be March 8. All are welcome, and of course we welcome questions at any time, so grab some food and come join us.

UU History and Theologies. Tue Mar 24. Each fall and spring Rev. Dan Schatz offers this special session on Unitarian Universalist History and Theologies. This is your chance to find out more about where we come from and what holds us together. See right for more details.

Path to Membership. Apr 5 and 19 at 12 pm. For those who may be considering membership in our congregation, this special two session class is a chance to get to know us better, explore Unitarian Universalism, and learn more about our congregation. The path generally includes some time with Rev. Dan as well as members and congregational leaders. To RSVP or sign up for childcare, please send a message to email: membership.

New Member Welcome. May 5. On May 5 we plan to welcome all our new members to our congregation with a brief ceremony and celebratory social hour.

Unitarian Universalist History and Theologies Tuesday, March 24, at 7pm

What's the difference between a Unitarian and a Universalist? Who were the Socinians? What does Count Dracula have in common with the Unitarianism? Who was Pete Seeger's favorite circuit riding Universalist preacher? What does it mean to be a religious liberal? Could it be that UUs actually have a theological tradition of our own?

We'll cover this and more in Rev. Dan Schatz's class on Unitarian Universalist History and Theologies on Tuesday, March 24, from 7-9 pm at the congregation. There will be stories, new perspectives, and some mind-blowing theology. Bring your questions, and bring a friend if you know someone who is interested in learning more about our "Faith of the Free." The class is open to all — newcomers as well as those who would like to grow in their understanding of Unitarian Universalism.

Walk-ins are absolutely welcome, but if you are able to let **Rev. Dan** know you plan to come ahead of time it will help in planning. If you need childcare, please let **Rev. Dan** know as soon as possible.



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 around 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 write to **email: SGM**.

Pastoral Care

The **Pastoral Care Team** contact for this month is **Fatima Patel**



Membership Committee



From one of our small group ministries comes this great suggestion for community-building: invite newer members, friends, and regulars to your next social gathering. "Social groups morph naturally with people coming and going, and we thought some groups would be comfortable trying a little morphing intentionally." Great idea! Connect with some newer faces you see and reach out to include them in your next social gathering. (Need some contacts/ideas for newer folks? Contact us at email: **membership**).

And for those of you who routinely participate in Family Game Night, Lunch Group, Soul Collage, and other regularly scheduled UCWC activities, we challenge you to make it a personal goal to invite someone to join you this month.

Men's Group



The Tuesday evening men's group will meet on March 3 at 7 pm downstairs in room 4. The topic will be "Kabbalah," and the presenter will be Irv Friedlander. All men are welcome.

Fun & Fellowship

Folk Singing

The next **folk singing get-together** is Friday, March 20, 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, March 20, 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.



Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

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

UUPLAN Needs You

UUPLAN (Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Action Network) is responsible for coordinating efforts to contact our State Representatives in Harrisburg in support of UU values: from Black Lives Matter, to Gun Violence Prevention, to Protecting Immigrants, to Poverty issues, LGBTQ equity, Reproductive Rights, Good Government issues and more. UUPLAN is the action arm of UU's across the state, organizing lobbying and demonstrations, and making UU voices heard in the halls of our legislature.



Retired minister, Rev. Joan Sabatino, now works as UUPLAN's point person for lobbying in Harrisburg. In addition, UUPLAN will be very involved in **UU the Vote**, UUA's program to mobilize voters in support of UU values.

UUPLAN is asking for members in UU congregations to step up and support these efforts with a yearly membership of \$40. To join, click [here](#).

Thank you in advance for supporting UUPLAN's important work by joining. Please also consider getting more involved in the social justice cause dearest to your heart.

— **Tom Buglio**, UUPLAN Liaison

Defenders of Democracy

Our Fifth UU principal is, "the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." Defenders of Democracy is working to spread awareness of the importance of voting in this election. Here are some important links:

- **VOTING STATUS.** To see if you are registered and where your polling place is [click here](#).
- **ONLINE REGISTRATION.** It only takes a few minutes — [click here](#).
- **MAIL-IN VOTING.** New this year in **Pennsylvania**. To save yourself the lines at the polls and vote early, get an [application for a mail-in ballot here](#).
- **ABSENTEE BALLOTS.** If you are a student who will be away at college and want to vote for the people on your hometown ballot, or your work or vacation takes you away from where you live on election day, apply for an [absentee ballot here](#).



If you haven't voted in a while, take a moment to check your registration, and pass this along to young people 18 and over and encourage them to vote at the polls, absentee or mail-in.

Defenders of Democracy has printed voter registration applications and mail-in ballot registration forms. Just ask Charlot Barker, Tom Buglio, or Matt Zencey, if you need one. Let's share this information far and wide with family and friends and get as many people involved with the democratic process this year as possible.

UUSC Update

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) continues to advocate for our UU principals. Harmful immigration laws haven't received as much press in the last month, but UUSC doesn't forget.



Congress is moving toward a vote on the NO BAN Act (H.R. 2214), which would end the Trump administration's racist travel bans and help bring families together. UUSC has repeatedly called on Congress before to pass the NO BAN Act in both the House and the Senate. Now, with the bill's recent movement in the House, it is closer to becoming law than ever. It is time for UUSC members to lend our voice once more to help push this bill across the finish line.

Our support of UUSC keeps this work continuing. Your **donation options** now include the convenience of automatic monthly giving. Automatically donating a small amount each month may have a big impact for UUSC.

Diversity Book Group

Sunday, March 8 7-8:30 pm
Social Room

Our book this month is *America's First Daughter* by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie.

In a compelling, richly researched novel that draws from thousands of letters and original sources, bestselling authors Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie tell the fascinating, untold story of Thomas Jefferson's eldest daughter, Martha "Patsy" Jefferson Randolph — a woman who kept the secrets of our most enigmatic founding father and shaped an American legacy.

Our leader will be **Debby Kern**.



Black Lives Matter

The **BLM Committee** highly recommends the **Jubilee Anti-Racism Training** on March 27-29 at the UU Church of Delaware County in Media. The workshop, which has been attended by members of our committee, helps participants understand what is involved in nurturing a multicultural community and working against racism in all its forms. It is eye-opening for you individually and benefits

our congregation and the wider community. Feel free to contact anyone on our committee about our experience. Click [here](#) for more information and **registration**. Scholarship funds are available from UCWC.

Our committee members continue to attend community workshops and WCASD programs to learn ways of enlightening ourselves and our congregation about racial justice issues. We have also received approval for a **Statement of Public Witness on Racism in the United States** and are planning programs for the upcoming year.

**BLACK LIVES
MATTER**

First Sunday Food Collection

This Month's Suggested Items:
Peanut Butter and Jelly

Our **monthly collection** for the **West Chester Food Cupboard** is Sunday, March 1. 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.




Transgender Day of Visibility

Tuesday, March 31, at 7pm

What does "visible" mean? Following up on our March 29 service, we will celebrate the diversity of gender identity with a panel discussion, featuring congregation members as well as special guests. This will be an opportunity to listen, learn, and ask questions relating to gender identity and the transgender experience, as well as to celebrate together with refreshment and community. The panel is co-sponsored by our congregation and the **LGBT Equality Alliance of Chester County**.






UUPLAN

ANNUAL MEETING

**YOUR VOICE
IN
HARRISBURG**



**DETAILS &
REGISTRATION AT
UUPLAN.ORG**

**UCWC CONTACT:
TOM BUGLIO
UUPLAN@UCWC.ORG**

**Fri Apr 24 & Sat Apr 25
Main Line Unitarian Church
816 S Valley Forge Rd, Devon**

"Bringing Personal Morality to Government"

Share-the-Plate Generosity

The Social Justice Committee's **Share-the-Plate program** raises money for local non-profit organizations working to improve life for Chester County residents. We are pleased to announce the share-the-plate recipient for March 15 (third Sunday of the month), **La Comunidad Hispana**.

La Comunidad Hispana (LCH) was founded in 1973 by Kennett Square residents, clergy, and advocates as a bilingual social services agency to serve the primarily Latinx population working in the local mushroom industry. Since then, it has continued to grow and evolve into a multifaceted Federally Qualified Health Center serving southern Chester County.



LCH provides healthcare to anyone, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. Their healthcare services include primary care, pediatrics, women's health, dental care, and behavioral health care. In addition to healthcare, they provide free ESL classes, citizenship classes, and workforce development classes. Finally, they have a robust social assistance department, which provides a free legal clinic, assistance with public benefits, case management, and transportation.

LCH does receive federal funding; however, more than half of its annual budget must be raised by philanthropy.

Memo Line of Your Check. Please write one of the following to clarify your donation:

"50/50" Money split evenly with charity
 "All to Charity" 100% to charity
 "Annual Pledge" 100% to your annual pledge
 "Capital Pledge" 100% to your capital campaign pledge

If there is nothing in the memo line, 100% will go to UCWC as a general donation — not as a pledge. Please write all checks payable to "UCWC".

Thank you for your generosity to January's recipient, Healthy Start, Maternal and Child Health Consortium, in the amount of \$635.



Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

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



Daylight Savings
Time Starts March 8

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|--|
| Feb 29 | Sat | Stewardship Dinner. 5 pm. |
| Mar 1 | Sun | First Sunday Food Collection. See p. 8. Defenders of Democracy. 6:30 pm. Meditation Rm. See p. 7. |
| Mar 3 | Tue | Executive Committee. 6:30 pm. Minister's Office. Men's Group. 7 pm. Room 4. See p. 6. |
| Mar 4 | Wed | Small Group Facilitators. 7 pm. Meditation Room. |
| Mar 6 | Fri | Family Game Night. 6 pm. Sanctuary. |
| Mar 7 | Sat | Stewardship Session. 10-11 am. Downstairs. See p. 4. |
| Mar 8 | Sun | Daylight Savings Time Begins. Set clocks ahead 1 hour. Q&A. After each service. Meditation Room. See p. 5. Safe Harbor Dinner. 6 pm. Contact Rick London, email: safe-harbor . Diversity Book Group. 7:00-8:30 pm. Social Rm. See p. 8. Religious Services Committee. 7 pm. Meditation Room. Council Meeting. 7 pm. Social Room. Defenders of Democracy ZOOM Conference Call. 7 pm. Safe Harbor Dinner. 6 pm. Contact Rick London, email: safe-harbor . |
| Mar 9 | Mon | Share-the-Plate Sunday. Benefits La Comunidad Hispana. See p. 9. |
| Mar 10 | Tue | Town Hall. Between services. See <i>From the President</i> , p. 3. |
| Mar 11 | Wed | SoulCollage® Sunday. 12:30 pm. Room 7. |
| Mar 15 | Sun | Board Meeting. 6:30 pm. Social Room. Religious Education Committee. 7 pm. Meditation Room. |
| Mar 17 | Tue | Lunch Group. 11:30 am. Panera Bread. See p. 6. |
| Mar 18 | Wed | Folk Singing. 7:30 pm. Home of Linda & Steve Sander. See p. 6. |
| Mar 20 | Fri | Committee on Ministry. 7 pm. Meditation Room. |
| Mar 23 | Mon | UU History and Theologies Class. 7 pm. See p. 5. |
| Mar 24 | Tue | Jubilee Anti-Racism Training. See p. 8. |
| Mar 27-29 | Fri-Sun | Transgender Day of Visibility Panel Discussion. 7 pm. UCWC. See p. 8. |
| Mar 31 | Tue | |
| EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY: | | |
| Sundays | | Sunday Morning Meditation. 8:30 am. Meditation Room. Contact email: DLFD . |
| Various Dates | | Small Group Ministry (Several Active Groups). See web calendar or contact email: SGM . See p. 6. |
| Most Thursdays | | Spirit Singers Practice. Mar 5, 12, and 26 at 7:15 pm. Sanctuary. Contact Miriam Davidson, email: choir . |

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Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

501 South High Street
West Chester, PA 19382

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All email addresses @ucwc.org

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Steve and Linda Sander, *The Fellowtarian* Editors email: [fellowtarian](#)



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