

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

June 2020



NOTES FROM REV. DAN

"At times," wrote Albert Schweitzer, "our light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us." I think of these words as I look ahead to Pam Baxter's last month as our Director of Lifespan Faith Development. Twenty years is a long time to serve a congregation, and in that time Pam has given more than time, energy, and dedication. Pam has given us love and light.

Religious education is not just classes, lessons, and stories. It's the environment we create together for spiritual growth and exploration. It's all those things we teach children and adults in ways that are seldom thought about on any conscious level but are more crucial than any curriculum. It's the message we send in the ways we interact.

For nearly two decades, Pam has helped shape that message for our

congregation. In her gentle way, she's nudged us forward when we needed to be nudged, asked questions that needed to be asked, and reminded us what it means to be a loving community together. She has helped us engage with one another, Unitarian Universalism, and the world more deeply. And so often, when our own lights have needed tending, Pam has been there.

The results show. You only have to spend a little time with our kids to see them. They resonate with a vibrancy and holy curiosity that they delight in sharing, because they know that this is a place where they will be encouraged and

taken seriously. Pam helped us create that culture.

"Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us," said Schweitzer. Thank you, Pam, for the light you've kindled, which will continue to shine for years and decades to come. We are truly grateful.

In faith, Dan

Thank you, Pam, for the light you've kindled, which will continue to shine for years and decades to come. We are truly grateful.

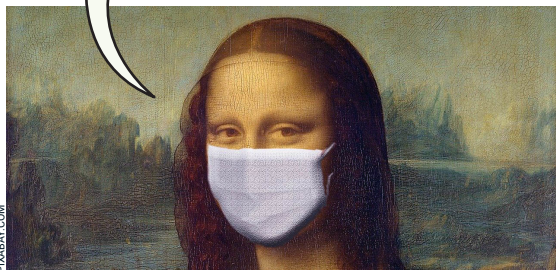
Our Mission

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.

Dan's Contact

Dan is available by appointment in June. To reach him, send an message to email: **minister**. He will be on leave from May 26-31, and after June 16.

Stay safe this summer, everyone.



A Welcoming
Congregation

501 South High Street
West Chester PA 19382
610-692-5966
office@ucwc.org
www.ucwc.org

Sunday Services

Religious Education
Online through June 7.
Summer plans to come.



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.

June 7 10 am RELIGIOUS EDUCATION All Ages Service SUNDAY AND FAREWELL TO PAM

As we celebrate our children's religious education program this year, we'll take some time to bid farewell to our longtime religious educator, Pam Baxter, who retires at the end of June. This will be Pam's last service with us as Director of Lifespan Faith Development.

June 14 10 am ASK THE MINISTER Rev. Dan Schatz

An annual favorite, this service will be shaped by you and the questions you ask. Please send questions about theology, world religions, ministry, ethics, current events or anything else to email: [minister](mailto:minister@ucwc.org) as soon as possible, and no later than June 7.

June 21 10 am REMEMBERING FATHERS UCWC Members & Friends

Fathers and father figures have a profound influence on the people who we were, are, and shall become. In this Sunday's service, congregation members and friends will share memories and readings about fathers, grandfathers, stepfathers (and others).

Do you have a memory or reading that you'd like to share? Reach out to Chris Hyson via email: [religious-services](mailto:religious-services@ucwc.org), if you're interested in participating in this service or if you would like to provide a reading or memory to be shared.

June 28 10 am GENERAL ASSEMBLY Christin Green SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

It is usually just a few of us who get to attend the UUA General Assembly, but thanks to the virtual nature of this year's GA, we all can attend. Join us for the largest annual gathering of UUs together in worship.

Rev. Joan Javier-Duval will be a worship leader and will deliver the sermon. She serves as Minister of the Unitarian Church of Montpelier, Vermont. She is the daughter of immigrants from the Philippines, mother of a kindergartner, and spouse of a proud Vermonter.

Rev. Mykal O'Neal Slack will also be a worship leader. He is the Community Minister for Worship & Spiritual Care for Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism, an organization and growing spiritual community that provides support, resources, and care for Black UUs across the diaspora. He is also one of the co-founders of the Transforming Hearts Collective, an organizing ministry that helps to both co-create spaces of healing and spiritual resiliency for queer and trans/nonbinary folks and resource congregations in the work of radical welcome and culture shift.

NOTE: All services are online for the foreseeable future. Links can be found [here](#).

From the President

As the pandemic lockdown begins to ease, Memorial Day weekend news coverage brought pictures of crowds, elbow-to-elbow, without masks, across the country, frolicking in pools in the Ozarks, strolling on the boardwalk of Ocean City Maryland, and sunning on beaches in Florida and California.



Back here in West Chester, we will continue to be extremely cautious before resuming in-person gatherings at 501 South High Street.

We would all do well to remember Philadelphia's experience during the "Spanish" flu of 1918. An early wave of flu deaths had just started, and some cities were growing cautious about holding large public events. In Philadelphia, a huge parade was planned to promote the sale of Liberty Bonds during World War I. Some leading doctors argued strongly against the parade, but city leaders bowed to public pressure and allowed it. Two hundred thousand people jammed the streets, and soon after, **the city saw a huge spike in flu deaths**, much worse than other cities that followed tighter health protections.

It is human nature to chafe at the protective measures we are asked to take, especially the limits on our freedom of movement. Each of us is asked to endure painfully obvious upheaval in daily life for some invisible future benefit shared with millions of others. Many among us are thrown out of work and into our country's threadbare safety net, left to worry about paying the rent or mortgage, putting food on the table, and being stripped of health coverage. But the simple scientific truth is that the fewer people any of us contact, the less the virus spreads. And that saves lives, thousands of lives — people we don't know and will never meet.

The *New York Times* tried to drive home what's at stake with a special feature on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. The entire front page was just one article — **a partial list of those across the US who've died of COVID** and a few brief words about their lives. Continued on the inside pages, the Times printed a total of 1,000 tiny obituaries, just 1% of the 100,000 fellow Americans whose lives COVID has cut short. It is sobering to read. (The online version is [here](#).)

Churches have begun to resume services, thanks to intense pressure on political leaders to open up generally, but especially to honor claims that religious freedom should trump the protection of public health. Theoretically, it might be possible to resume in-person services in a somewhat safe way — everybody wearing masks, strict social distancing enforced, and no singing (a powerful way COVID can spread). But humans are social animals and even the best-intentioned congregants will inevitably fudge those boundaries and inflame the risk of spreading the virus.

Rest assured: Much as we'd love to see all of you in person, hug, and reconnect, we at UCWC will not repeat the mistake Philadelphia's leaders made during the flu pandemic of 1918.

Much as we'd love to see all of you in person, hug, and reconnect, we at UCWC will not repeat the mistake Philadelphia's leaders made during the flu pandemic of 1918.

ANNUAL MEETING Sunday June 14 at 11 am Via Zoom



Main Items of Business

- Voting to select four board members, including Secretary and Vice-President
- Voting on UCWC's annual budget

Your vote is your voice at UCWC. UU principles commit us to, "use of the democratic process within our congregations." The continuing pandemic poses many challenges for us and our budget, so be sure to attend the annual meeting.

Anyone is welcome to join via Zoom, but please note: Voting is open only to members (those who have signed our membership book).

If you need help installing or using Zoom, please contact Maggie, email: [office](#).

Lifespan Faith Development

Introducing Cassie Lengel Our New DLFD

After a year's search, congregational conversations, focus groups, and hours of candidate interviews, we are pleased to welcome Cassie Lengel as our new Director of Lifespan Faith Development.

Cassie has served for the past two years as the Director of Religious Education for the Unitarian Universalist Congregational Society of Westborough, Massachusetts. Prior to that time, she studied Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University and Biblical and Religious Studies at Messiah College.

She writes, "While still a newer Unitarian Universalist, I have embraced our UU values with a mind wide open, and I enjoy dabbling in neopaganism and spending time in nature. I have a passion for fostering deeper learning about religions and spiritual practices to create faith lives that are uniquely our own. It is not enough to have faith without understanding, and knowledge without compassion is poorly implemented; that is why I strive to use education to facilitate a personal faith which allows us to naturally respond with social justice."

"I am looking forward to working with this congregation as we learn together and create a path towards a better world."

We look forward to getting to know Cassie as she joins us in this unique time for our congregation and the world. She will begin on August 1.



Note

Pam is a long-time member of UCWC. However, according to UU protocol, an outgoing DLFD stays apart for a year from the congregation they served, to give the new DLFD space to make the job their own. We wish Pam well in her retirement, and hope to see her back at UCWC in 2021.

REmarks

Religious Education Update "That's all, folks!"

When you start a job, you're not thinking about the day you'll leave. You're thinking about the job — what it is, and what you want to make of it. In a way, every day, week, month, year is its own new start, and the whole trajectory of your work ends up being a series of beginnings. Until you come to the end.

There is so much that I could talk about in this last column, and I have a sort of nagging sense that I should be able to leave you with some incredibly wise or inspirational words. But I think that there are really just two important things to say.



First, looking ahead to the congregation's transition to a new DLFD, if I or one of the members of the Religious Education Committee invite you to help in RE, please say "yes." We need to have all our teaching teams set up so that classes are ready to roll in September. It's unrealistic to imagine that someone new to our congregation can arrive in August and accomplish this, especially without knowing any of you.

Second, looking back over nearly twenty years as your DRE and DLFD, and the closer I get to June 30, the more I feel somehow that the only thing I should be doing these last few weeks is individually thanking all of you who have helped me so much over the years; who have shared your vision and ideas, your creativity and commitment, and — perhaps most importantly — your caring. I feel so incredibly blessed that events and choices in my life led me to you, and, more than anything, I want to be sure that you know that.

Signing off, one last
time, with love
and a virtual hug,
Pam

UCWC Director of
Lifespan Faith Development,
February 15, 2001 – June 30, 2020

Pastoral Care

The **Pastoral Care Team** contact for this month is **Christie Judge**.

Memorial Service

A memorial service for David Rovner will be held via our YouTube channel on Sunday, June 7, at 4 pm.

All UCWC members and friends are invited. To view, click [here](#).

Ask the Minister Service

Is there something you'd like to know about theology, UU history, world religions, or sacred writings? Do you want to know what your minister thinks about an issue that you care about? Or do you have questions about ministry itself?

Dan is now taking questions on whatever topics you'd like to hear about. You can email your questions to Dan (email:

minister) anytime before June 7. All questions will be read anonymously and will form the basis of the June 14 service.



Small Group Ministry

During the epidemic, our Small Group Ministries are meeting by Zoom. 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**.

Distance Donating is Easy

In this time of social distancing, you might think that donating would be a problem. It's not. There are many easy ways to support our wonderful spiritual community.

Pledging

Go [here](#). Choose whether a first pledge or continuing pledge and fill out the form.

Pay It Forward

Go [here](#) to donate all or part of your COVID-19 check. You can pay immediately online or fill out the form and see the payment options.

A One-time Gift In Memory or Honor of Someone

Go [here](#). After submitting the form, you will be taken to a page that offers the payment options.

Payment Options for Plate, Pledge or General Gift

Go [here](#) to see the options. Among them are:

Check. This is by far the easiest way. Send your check to UCWC, 501 S. High St., West Chester, PA 19382. Be sure to make the check out to "UCWC" and write the purpose (pledge and year, share the plate month, etc.) in the memo line. We love this method because there are no credit card or online fees.

Bill Pay. Set up one-time or recurring payments with your bank's website. Use UCWC's name and address. Make sure to enter what your payment is for as a memo.

Online Payment. Go [here](#). On your first visit, you must create an account designating a card or bank account as the payment method. Thereafter you will log in. There will be options for paying your pledge, share the plate, pay it forward, etc.

Phone App. The app is called GivePlus or Give+ and is available from the Apple or Google app stores. On some phones you can take a picture of your credit card instead of entering card data.

Text. Text a whole dollar amount to 833-300-0235. The first time you do it you will be prompted to enter your credit or debit card information. Text donations are always credited to Plate.

Questions?

If you have any questions about or issues with your payment, contact email: [finance](#). Thank you.



Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

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

Election Day is June 2

**Mail-in ballots must be received
by your county office by 8 pm.
(Postmarks do not count.)**

First Sunday Food Collection

In this time of social distancing, we are not collecting food on the first Sunday of each month. However, as always, you can still make a financial donation — with no personal contact on your part. We will buy grocery store gift cards and give them to the Food Cupboard.

Please make your check out to “**UCWC**” and write “**Food Cupboard**” in the memo line. Mail your check to:

Income Treasurer
Unitarian Congregation of West
Chester
501 South High Street
West Chester, PA 19382



Contact Cyndy Bullaughey, email: [grocery-program](mailto:grocery-program@wcfc.org), for more information.

The **West Chester Food Cupboard** commits to provide a variety of fresh and nonperishable healthy food items to West Chester residents in need...

...because no one should go hungry!

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 June 21 (third Sunday of the month), **The West Chester Food Cupboard**.

The motto of the West Chester Food Cupboard is their reason for being: “...because no one should go hungry!”

Here in one of the wealthiest counties in America, there are many folks who struggle to put food on the table. The Food Cupboard serves over 600 households every month and provides them with a variety of much needed food and personal care items. Last year, they distributed 1.2 million pounds of items to their clients. In these times more than ever, their mission is crucial. They continue to operate safely through the COVID-19 crisis, providing vitally needed food to members of the community.

The Food Cupboard is a 100% volunteer organization — not one person receives a salary — so you know that every cent you give today goes to fight food insecurity. The West Chester Food Cupboard helps people right here, right now.

Donate by Check. Please send your check to Income Treasurer, Unitarian Congregation of West Chester, 501 S. High St., West Chester PA 19382.

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

“50/50”..... Money split evenly with this month’s recipient
“All to Charity” 100% to this month’s recipient
“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 to “UCWC”.

Donate Online. You can donate online [here](https://wcfc.org). (You will need to create an account, if you have not already done so.)

Thank you for your generosity to March recipient, Safe Harbor, in the amount of \$1,465.

UUSC Update

Here is some of the work that **UUSC** supporters are making possible during COVID-19.

- Distributing mobile aid to refugees in Croatia.
- Providing legal aid to migrants in Mexico via phone and video.
- Covering basic needs of Louisiana Indian Tribes facing COVID-19 along with a decimated fishing industry.
- Providing updates about COVID-19 and covering cell phone costs in refugee camps in Greece.
- Delivering food, cleaning supplies, and other basic necessities to refugee camps along the U.S-Mexico border.
- Translating health information about COVID-19 into local languages in the Pacific islands.
- Providing Rohingya refugees living in the world's largest refugee camp in Bangladesh with soap, masks, and other protective supplies.

In these difficult times, I hope you will feel some encouragement knowing that together, we are supporting communities whose human rights struggles are compounded by the public health crisis.

Take Action: Texas, has criminalized any public protests that interfere with the creation of "critical infrastructure" such as pipelines, refineries, and other facilities that extract fossil fuels.

Support the **Carrizo/Comecrudo Tribe of Texas** who are resisting the exploitation of Native lands. They are fighting to stop corporate attempts to build fracked gas terminals on part of Garcia Pasture — a site sacred to the Esto'k Gna that has been recognized in the National Register of Historic Places.

Join UUSC: Donate [here](#). Any amount makes you a member. Thank you.



Grocery Gift Cards

Grocery gift cards are available for purchase — send your request to email: [grocery-program](#). Arrangements will be made for a safe, convenient exchange of your order for a check. Please consider participating in this program if you haven't before, or continuing your support. Remember, UCWC gets to keep 5 percent of your purchase at no extra cost to you.



We have expanded the inventory with \$10 Giant and Acme gift cards to use as thank you gifts (for teachers, service workers, etc.), as well as a chance for you to make a contribution of ShopRite gift cards (\$25, \$50 or \$100) to the West Chester Food Cupboard which will be delivered on your behalf.

Men's Group



The Tuesday evening men's group will meet on June 2 at 7 pm via Zoom. Jack Butler will lead the discussion on the topic of "free will". All men are welcome.

The Zoom link will be sent out directly via email. If you are interested in participating but are not yet on the email distribution list, please reach out to Mark Matteson or Dirk Troltenier at email: [mens-group](#).

What is Zoom?

Zoom is a web conferencing service that allows us to see and hear each other without being in the same room. It is a wonderful way for us to stay connected when we are physically apart, and most of our classes, meetings and other smaller events are moving to this platform. For easy instructions, click [here](#).

Fun & Fellowship



Rev. Dan



David Roth

unitarian congregation of west chester

*Join us online for a night of
music, streamed to you!*

COFFEEHOUSE

SATURDAY
JUNE 6
7:00 PM

ONLINE

Details to Come

*Music and
Entertainment!*

COFFEEHOUSE@UCWC.ORG
610-692-5966

FREE-WILL
DONATION

*Click here or go to
ucwc.org/coffeehouse
for one more way
to help
UCWC*

Virtual Coffeehouse

The UCWC Coffeehouse Team (email: [coffeehouse](mailto:coffeehouse@ucwc.org)) is happy to announce that we will host a Virtual Coffeehouse on Saturday June 6, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm (more or less).

Scheduled performers include David Roth and Rev. Dan Schatz along with other longtime friends

of the Unity Coffeehouse. It will be as easy to attend as one of our Sunday services. We can get together (without getting together) and share the awesomeness that is Music at UCWC. So save the date. We'll publish a link a few days before the event. Hope to "see" you then.

Like our regular coffeehouse evenings, we'll be taking donations to support the good works of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester. We ask that you be generous within your means. Click [here](#) to donate during the event or now. Stay safe and sing your hearts out.

Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

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



**Don't Miss Our
Annual Meeting
Online June 14
After the Service**



EVENTS LIST NOW ONLINE

Zoom meetings on
this calendar are, for the
most part, password-
protected.

A list of password-
enabled links is on our
website – on a [password-
protected page](#). (Access
to that page will be
distributed appropriately.)

May 31	Sun	Town Hall. 11 am. ZOOM.
Jun 1	Mon	Executive Committee. 6:30 pm. ZOOM.
Jun 2	Tue	Election Day, Pennsylvania Primary. Men's Group. 7:00 pm. ZOOM. See p. 7.
Jun 3	Wed	Small Group Facilitators. 7 pm. ZOOM. Email: SGM .
Jun 6	Sat	Coffee House. 7 pm. Online. See p. 8.
Jun 7	Sun	First Sunday Food Collection. See p. 6. RE Celebration Sunday. 10 am. Rovner Memorial Service. 4 pm. See p. 5. Defenders of Democracy. 4 pm. ZOOM. Email: democracy .
Jun 8	Mon	Religious Services Committee. 7 pm. ZOOM.
Jun 9	Tue	Council Meeting. 7 pm. ZOOM.
Jun 10	Wed	Safe Harbor Dinner. 4:15 pm. Email: safe-harbor .
Jun 14	Sun	Annual Meeting. 11 am. ZOOM. See p. 3. Safe Harbor Dinner. 6:15 pm. Email: safe-harbor .
Jun 16	Tue	Board Meeting. 6:30 pm. ZOOM.
Jun 17	Wed	Religious Education Committee. 7 pm. ZOOM. Contact email: RE .
Jun 21	Sun	Share-the-Plate Sunday. Benefits West Chester Food Cupboard. See p. 6.
Jun 22	Mon	Committee on Ministry. 7 pm. ZOOM. Contact email: COM .

EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:

Mondays	Open Zoom Session. 2:00-3:00 pm. Stop in and Chat.
Tuesdays	Womens' Kaffeeklatsch. 9:00-10:30 am. ZOOM.
Thursdays	Open Zoom Session. 11:00 am-noon. Stop in and Chat.
Fridays	Women's Corona Cocktail Party. 7:00-8:30 pm. ZOOM.
Saturdays	Open Zoom Session. 7:00-8:00 pm. Stop in and Chat.
Sundays	Sunday Morning Meditation. 8:00 am. ZOOM. Contact email: DLFD .
Various Dates	Small Group Ministry (Several Active Groups). See web calendar or contact email: SGM . See p. 5.



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](#)