



NOTES FROM REV. DAN 🕫

I arrived at the march with my clergy stole in a backpack. Walking up High Street I heard the

shouts thundering – "Black lives!" "MATTER!" "Black lives!" "MATTER!" Our starting point was still six blocks away, so I put on my mask, wove my way through the crowd, and came as

close as I could get to the front of the march, greeting neighbors and congregation members on the way. In the fifteen years I've lived in West Chester

In the fifteen years I've *I'd never seen* lived in West Chester, I'd *anything like* never seen anything like *this.* this. Cars driving by honked

support for demonstrators, a local restaurant passed out free slices of pizza, and passersby gave a thumbs up to every person holding a sign or wearing a Black Lives Matter t-shirt. The march began and we walked swiftly from the borough offices to the County Courthouse, where I stood away from others as much as I could while still being part of the protest.

Then leaders asked us to kneel for eight minutes and forty-six seconds, the length of time Derek Chauvin kept his knee on George Floyd's neck. And in one moment, five thousand deafening people became silent. We knelt, our fists in the air.

I thought about a lot of things as I took a knee in the middle of the intersection of High and Market streets. I thought about the energy for justice rising. I thought about how many times we had been here before, and how little had changed. I thought a lot about how uncomfortable it is to kneel for eight minutes and forty-six seconds holding up a fist – after a while it hurt – and imagined the horror of lying on the ground with a man's knee on your neck for that time. I thought about what it would mean to live an entire life in fear that you could be the next victim. It was a deeply tragic and profoundly spiritual experience.

In the fifteen years I've lived in West Chester, I'd never seen anything like this. The movement to address the constant and consistent devaluing of Black Lives is as much spiritual as it is social. This brokenness is a wound on the soul of our society, and on each of us in society, whether we are the beneficiaries or the victims

of White privilege and implicit bias. To place one's sense of comfort over the safety of another, to turn away, to perpetuate violence and inequality even unwittingly, is to be wounded.

Unitarian Universalism teaches justice, equity, and compassion. That means paying attention to the needs of those who have the least privilege. We also affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every human being. Nobody, no matter what they have said or done, is beyond redemption, good people can be caught up in bad systems, and some systems protect bad behavior. This, too, is a wound, and recognizing the wound is the beginning of healing.

I'm glad we're paying attention now. This is a saving movement, not just for Black lives, but for every life, and every soul. I pray we open ourselves to its grace.

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



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.

July 510 amMINDFULNESS & THE BRAIN:Dagmar CoferLive-streamTRANSFORMING PERSONAL SUFFERING

We are wired to avoid pain. Whether it is physical discomfort or uncomfortable emotions, our "go to" reaction is to run as fast as we can from what it is we do not want, even though it is already here. Only when we do the very opposite of what we want when anxiety hits — namely to acknowledge it, lean into and move through the experience of our suffering — does it begin to lessen. Each time we practice it, we become a change agent for peace and compassion not just for ourselves, but also for the world.

Dagmar Cofer was born and raised in Berlin, Germany, and came to the United States in 1972. She was a professional artist, showing her paintings in the States and in Germany. She became part of a Buddhist community in the 90's and received her Master's in Applied Meditation. Dagmar has worked with a variety of communities – private clients, hospice, higher education, hospitals, drug rehabilitation programs. She created a mindful medicine program for medical students at a health sciences university while living in California.

A year ago, Dagmar and her partner, Sheree, returned to Pennsylvania. They began attending UCWC just prior to the shutdown. To help others is Dagmar's greatest joy.

July 12 10 am LIBERATION OR DOMINATION? Rev. Kate Rohde Live-stream HOW NOT TO BECOME THE PEOPLE YOU STRUGGLE AGAINST

Jesus taught spiritual liberation, but the religion founded in his name became a tool for repression and murder in many places in the centuries that succeeded him. Revolutionaries become dictators and autocrats. The oppressed too often oppress. Some reflections on that theme in today's world.

Kate is UCWC's Minister Emerita and glad to be retired here in West Chester.

July 19 10 am	CARPE DIEM	Jaan Ingle Troltenier
Live-stream	AND ALL THAT JAZZ	

We humans are the only species which contemplates our own existence and understands that ultimately we will no longer exist. So how do you handle that disturbing concept? Many thinkers from Classical Greece up to the present day have more or less independently come up with a philosophy to deal with it.

July 2610 amIMPORTANT RITUALSRev. Carin BonifacinoLive-streamAT THE TIME OF DEATH

Even as funerals and memorial services are being postponed during this time of distancing, it is important that these rituals should not be postponed forever. Rituals work on our psyche, on our hearts, and on our minds in both subtle and not so subtle ways. Among other things, they give space for our grief, they reaffirm familial and community ties, and they give us ways to remember, reconnect, and honor the person whom we have lost. Carin will also speak about other cultures and their views of funeral rituals, and how they tie back to the U.S.

Carin is an ordained Interfaith Minister and graduated from One Spirit Interfaith Seminary in 2019. She is also a 2017 graduate of the Open Center's "Art of Dying" program. Carin has been trained as an End of Life Doula by the International End of Life Doula Association and as a Death Midwife by Earth Traditions and Sacred Crossings. Reverend Bonifacino offers highly personal planning, support, guidance, and ceremonies for the many stages of death and dying. She lives in Chester County with her two teenage children.

NOTE All services are online for the foreseeable future. Links can be found here.

From the President

This year's annual meeting, our first ever held via Zoom, drew great attendance and great cooperation and understanding. Despite the limitations imposed



by the pandemic, we elected new Board members, filled the nominating committee slots, and passed the budget, all by voice vote.

As moderator of the meeting, I'm grateful we did not have to have more formal balloting, which would have required writing Zoom poll questions. The less formal parliamentary process (permitted by Roberts Rules) allowed us to finish the meeting in an hour, just as

Zoom fatigue typically begins to set in.

I'd like to say thanks to departing Board members, Craig Talbot (finishing four years as our diligent Board secretary) and Lou Ballester. And please help me welcome aboard our newly elected members Paul Heck (vice-president) and Paul Sapko (secretary). For the nominating committee, our membership elected Gerry Geiss to be chair and Nancy Artus to fill the other open seat.

The budget we voted to pass will keep current staffing intact while making various trims here and there – a happy outcome, considering the pandemic, made possible by the \$38,000 of federal economic relief funds we obtained. I want to say a special thanks to Mike Miller and Wayne Bullaughey for all the work they did to secure the federal relief money.

An odd feature of UCWC's annual calendar is that as soon as we elect new Board members in June, we settle into a relatively quiet summer interlude before ramping up work toward the end of August.

I'll be using that time to reflect on the Board's work ahead. Your Board has two main jobs: to offer a long-term perspective and guidance on UCWC's path into the future and to ensure we uphold our fiduciary responsibilities for our finances, facilities, and people.

In practice, that means we will work on updating our mission statement, finishing our strategic plan (one that will be more than a dust-collecting formality), updating our very dated policies and procedures, and planning near-term and long-term capital improvements. As we do that work, I'll be mindful that a major part of our mission is to transform lives — to support spiritual searching and expand the love we hold in our hearts for each other and for those in our wider community and the world at large.

As always, there is lots to do in our relatively small but vibrant religious community. The pandemic has complicated and changed how we function, but we have risen to the challenge and remain strong. Thanks to the talents you bring and the commitment you all have shown, we have a bright future ahead. As we do that work, I'll be mindful that a major part of our mission is to transform lives — to support spiritual searching and expand the love we hold in our hearts for each other and for those in our wider community and the world at large.

UUA General Assembly Sunday Worship

LATE-JUNE SPECIAL REMINDER The Sunday, June 28, online service will be different. We will join UU's from across North America and beyond in a special service.

Our Sunday Service will begin ten minutes early at 9:50 am using the normal YouTube link. After our welcome and cards of sharing, just before 10 am, you will be directed to another the link for UUA General Assembly service.

Starting at 10 am, enjoy the UUA General Assembly live online worship service, led by:

- Rev. Joan Javier-Duval, Minister of the Unitarian Church of Montpelier, VT
- Rev. Mykal O'Neal Slack, Community Minister for Worship & Spiritual Care for Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism

After the service, we can then meet again using the link to our UCWC Zoom social hour.

Dan's Summer Leave



Rev. Dan is on study and annual leave through August 2. If you have pastoral needs during this time, please contact email: **pastoral-care**. For other questions, contact email: **office**.

Lifespan Faith Development

A wonderful "village" in support of our children. My heart-felt thanks to all of them.

REmarks Religious Education Update Honoring our Volunteers



This WordCloud image recognizes the 141 people who volunteered in UCWC's Religious Education Program over the past twenty years – as Teachers, Mentors, Youth Advisors, and Our Whole Lives Facilitators. The size of the names is

an indication of the number of years volunteers served. It is not in any way a reflection on their dedication, enthusiasm, or impact.

Some of these folks not only taught, but also were team leaders, created curricula, attended Youth Conferences, or served on the RE Committee. A wonderful "village" in support of our children. My heart-felt thanks to all of them.

Pam Baxter Director of Lifespan Faith Development





The Unitarian Congregation of West Chester presents an inaugural Summer of Shakespeare for UUs and their friends, ages 13-18.

Who: Teenagers, 13-18, with an interest in theatre. You may have years of stage experience or none at all to participate in our program. All are welcome.

What: Four weeks of Shakespeare, with discussion on life in London during the plague,

In accordance with the principles of Unitarian Universalism, we assert that:

1—We will respect the inherent worth and dignity of all people.

2—We will act with justice, equity, and compassion.

3—We accept one another and encourage each other to grow.

4—We all engage in a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

5—We will engage in a democratic process of decision making as a group.

6—We strive for a greater
community of peace,
liberty, and justice.
7—We will act with
respect for the
interdependent web of
existence.

thematic elements of Shakespeare that apply to today. At the end of our four weeks, we will perform *The Tempest* as a radio play. **Where**: Online, using a password-protected Zoom meeting.

When: M-F, July 6—July 31, 11am-12pm on most days

July 6	July 7	July 8	July 9	July 10
Introductions/ Prop Game	Shakespeare and the Plague	Preparing Auditions	Auditions	Auditions
July 13	July 14	July 15	July 16	July 17
Theatre Game Break	Read Through Act I—Act II	Read Through Act III—Act V	Breaking Down the Play	Let's Talk Sound Effects
July 20	July 21	July 22	July 23	July 24
Rehearsal Act I	Rehearsal Act II	Rehearsal Act III	Rehearsal Act IV	Rehearsal Act V
July 27 Tech Week – Incorporating Sound	July 28 Tech Week – Incorporating Sound	July 29 (longer Zoom session) Tech Week – Bring it All Together	July 30 (longer Zoom session) Tech Week – Run Through	July 31 (longer Zoom session) Performance Day!

Why: Part of the beauty of Shakespeare is that it is fluid, adaptable to situations that Shakespeare never knew possible. The plays contain universal themes and the potential to reach hearts.

How: To sign up, please complete the form on the **Children &** Youth Overview page of our website.

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Team contact for this month is **Pam Seres**.



Men's Group

men's group will meet

on July 7 at 7:00 pm via

Zoom. Bob Stein and Dirk

Troltenier will lead the

discussion on the topic.

"What will the world look

like after the pandemic?"

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 or Dirk

at email: mens-group.

The Zoom link will

All men are welcome.

The Tuesday evening

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.

Membership Team Tuesday, July 21 7 pm on Zoom



Let's talk fall — it will be here before we know it. All UCWC members and friends are welcome to attend the meeting, when we'll talk about and make plans for "Explorations" (a Small Group-style program) as well as doing UU Q&As on Zoom during the upcoming year.

We would like participation in both these engaging programs, whether you're a veteran or a newbie, so zoom in to learn more about them. Bring to the meeting whatever ideas you may have to help engage visitors, friends, and other members as we enter the fall season.

RSVP/Contact Lisa Kerschner at email: membership with questions or to acquire the Zoom information.

Grocery Cards

Everyone who buys groceries — and who doesn't — can contribute to UCWC by purchasing grocery gift cards. If you buy Giant, Acme, Shop Rite, Wawa, Panera, or Starbucks gift cards in denominations of \$10 to \$100 depending on the retailer, UCWC keeps five percent of the proceeds. So, at no extra cost to you, a donation is made to UCWC.

Please consider ordering cards by contacting email: grocery-program. Arrangements can be made to pick up the cards safely at your convenience.





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.

Stones in the Wall: **Social Justice**

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

UUSC Update

The United States will never truly live up to its potential until racism, white supremacy, and bigotry are eradicated.

Recent events and the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement have motivated UUSC - like much of America – to reassess its priorities. UUSC is acutely aware that in its 80-year history defending human rights around the globe, it has not focused on the human rights of Black Americans as consistently as it must. It is now experiencing a new awakening and awareness of what it is called to do.

As a way to take action, the UUSC promotes the Movement for Black Lives. For example, one part of this project has policies that help end police violence. They are so sensible that it makes one wonder why this wasn't put in place before. We have to thank the BLM movement and recent protests for holding this up, so we can listen and work to implement changes quickly.

UUSC is our UU human rights organization. Learn more and donate here. Any amount makes you a member. Thank you.

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 Mira Tryon, email: groceryprogram, 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!



Gun Violence Prevention

The recent protests remind us that gun violence by police is not just a general problem but is also related to how some police act towards the black community. From 2015 to 2019, over five thousand Americans were killed by the police [thetrace.org]. Twenty-five percent of them were black, even though African Americans make up only 13% of the population. The United States has a major problem in this area compared to other developed countries. The question is why?

Systemic racism is at the root of much of the police gun violence against African Americans. The sheer number of guns available to civilian society is also a factor - police feel they are put in danger with every traffic stop and domestic violence dispute.

What can we do? We can continue to press for fewer guns in dangerous hands, by lobbying for Extreme Risk Protection Orders, Bianca's Bill (no loaded guns in cars), Domestic Violence Restraining Orders, and Universal Background Checks. To find out how, join our bi-monthly Zoom conferences with UU's across the state on our UUPLAN gun violence prevention call. Contact Tom Buglio at email: gun-safety.

As gun violence prevention advocates, we can also individually and collectively examine our own ignorance and biases in the area of white privilege and support the positive efforts of community policing, as is often practiced right here in Chester County.

The momentum is there for real change right now. Let's take this energy to the ballot box and help make a safer society.



Defenders of Democracy



Want to help with the 2020 election? We have three opportunities for you to reach out in a nonpartisan way to spread the message of voter registration and mail-in voting:

- **UU The Vote.** This is our own effort to increase voter turnout. Read all about UU the Vote at **uuthevote.org.** In light of the powerful Black Lives Matter nationwide street protests, and the importance of minority voting in this election, our committee plans to partner with the NAACP and St. Paul's Baptist Church to convert this tremendous energy for change into votes.
- RSVP. This social service group identifies seniors in Chester County living independently who may need help. Volunteering with RSVP permits you to contact them to see what help they may need, and RSVP coordinates with the proper agency to provide service. One of the questions to ask is about mail-in voting. Contact RSVP at 610-696-4900.
- When We All Vote. This national campaign, with Michelle Obama as one of its' principal members, involves texting possible voters in Pennsylvania. Contact them at whenweallvote. org.

If you wish to be on our volunteer list, please contact DOD at email: democracy.

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 July 19 (third Sunday of the month), **Decade to Doorways**.

The mission of Decade to Doorways is to maximize current resources and develop new ones, making them as efficient and useful as possible with the end goal of preventing and ending homelessness in Chester County within ten years. They work to



ensure a community wide network of services to prevent and end homelessness in Chester County by shifting from a system that manages homelessness, to a system that diverts, prevents and rapidly re-houses.

You can send your check to UCWC, 501 S. High St., West Chester PA 19382, or you can donate online here. (You will need to create an account, if you have not already done so.)

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

"50/50" M	oney split evenly with charity	
"All to Charity" 10	0% to charity	
"Annual Pledge" 10	0% 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".

Black Lives Matter

One of the things that we have learned as members of the Black Lives Matter Committee is that there is always more to learn, more to come to terms with, and more to do to understand systemic racism and to change ourselves, our congregation, our community, and our world. To that end, we have taken it upon ourselves to take Debby Irving's 21 Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge, and we invite you to join us.

WHY? As recent events have demonstrated, we are at a critical juncture as a nation, as a denomination, and as individuals with respect to racial equity. Last fall, we adopted a statement committing ourselves as a congregation to moving towards becoming an anti-

racist congregation. This challenge will open the door to renewed conversations about racial equity within our congregation.

WHAT? Debby Irving, author of *Waking up White*, believes it takes 21 days to develop a habit, and she challenges us to change our habits of thinking and understanding of racial equity by focusing some time every day learning through reading, listening, watching, observing, and acting.

HOW? Join with other participants at a Zoom meeting on June 28 at 7 pm. Contact the Black Lives Matter Committee at email: black-lives-matter. Click here to access resources.

Give Back to Our Small Business Friends

As Chester County businesses begin to reopen and resume functions in uncertain times, let's do our best to give back and support those who have supported us. Below are lists of small businesses and nonprofits that have contributed to our UCWC auctions in the past two years.







Small Businesses

ACAC Fitness & Wellness. McDermott Dr, West Chester Appetites on Main, Main Street Exton Asuka Chinese & Japanese Cuisine, 1502 West Chester Pike BeBe Nails, Bradford Plaza, West Chester Brickside Grille, Eagleview Town Center Brother's Pizza & Pasta, Bradford Plaza, West Chester Cookies by Design, Exton The Couch Tomato, West Chester **DOGAllure Grooming, Coatesville** Integrated Wellness Associates of West Chester Learning Express, Lionville Shopping Center McGaurn Family Chiropractic, West Chester Monkey Fish Toys, Bradford Plaza, West Chester North Star Orchards, Cochranville

Now and Zen Yoga, West Chester Panera Bread (Multiple locations) Peter's Salon and European Spa, 1009 West Chester Pike Pinot's Palette, Main Street Exton Taco Mar Restaurant, West Chester Wasabi Chinese & Japanese Restaurant, Bradford Plaza, West Chester

Nonprofit Organizations

American Helicopter Museum Brandywine Ballet Brandywine River Museum Chanticleer Garden Hagley Museum & Library Longwood Gardens Mt. Cuba Center Philadelphia Museum of Art Uptown! Entertainment Alliance Wilmington Blue Rocks YMCA Greater Brandywine

Fun & Fellowship



Virtual Coffeehouse a Success...and a Splendid Time for All

Thanks to all who viewed our Virtual Coffeehouse on June 6. We had attendees from as far away as the West Coast, New England, and the Southeast. At one time we had over 70 consecutive streams active, and some lively online chat.

We happily note that the event attracted over \$1000 in donations for the UCWC General Fund. So, thanks to all who donated time, treasure, and talent to this worthwhile evening, especially the 21 separate acts who performed, and the team on whose expertise we relied to have this event run so professionally.

If for some reason you were unable to attend, or wish to view the performances again, we've gotten permission to share the archive with you. Please send requests to email: **coffeehouse** for details. Again... thanks for making this first online version a success.

Calendar

All email addresses @ucwc.org

Click HERE to access our website main calendar, which includes late June events.

"Check out our new summer kids program, the Principle Players production of The Tempest. Learn more on page 5."

NCIPLE PLAYER

Jun 28	Sun	UUA General Assembly Sunday Service. 10:00 am. See. p. 3.
Jul 5	Sun	First Sunday Food Collection. See p. 7.
		Defenders of Democracy. 7:00 pm. ZOOM. See p. 8.
Jul 7	Tue	Men's Group. 7:00 pm. ZOOM. See p. 6.
Jul 8	Wed	Safe Harbor Dinner. 4:15 pm.
Jul 12	Sun	Safe Harbor Dinner. 6:15 pm.
		Black Lives Matter 21-Day Challenge Session. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 8.
Jul 15	Wed	Black Lives Matter Committee. 3:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 8.
Jul 19	Sun	Share-the-Plate Sunday. Benefits Decade to Doorways. See p. 8.
Jul 21	Tue	Membership Team. 6:45 pm. Zoom. See p. 6.

EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:

Weekdays	Principle Players Summer Shakespeare Program. 11 am. See p. 5.
Mondays	Open Zoom Session. 2:00-3:00 pm. Stop in and Chat.
Tuesdays	Women's Kaffeeklatsch. 9:00-10:30 am. ZOOM.
Most Thursdays	Spirit Singers Practice. July 2, 16, and 30 at 7:30 pm. ZOOM. Contact Miriam Davidson, email: choir.
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. 6.

🖸 zoom

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 passwordprotected page. (Access to that page will be distributed appropriately.)

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 Maggie Christy, Office Administrator	
Matt Zencey, President	
Cassie Lengel, Director of Lifespan Faith	Development email: DLFD
Steve and Linda Sander, The Fellowtarian	Editorsemail: fellowtarian