

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

November 2020



NOTES FROM REV. DAN

Within the next two weeks the election will be done. We don't yet know how long it will take for all the votes to be counted, who the president will be for the next four years, or what ripple effects the divisive rhetoric of the past months and years will leave us. (My November 8 service is called "Now What?" for a reason – I honestly can't say what will happen.)

Many of us are dedicating this last week to work on the election, in support of what we value and of democracy itself. Others are beginning the work of healing – trying to bridge the gap and the mistrust between neighbors by encouraging listening, understanding, and positive connection. I know several who are doing both, and both are important.

Most of us, whatever we are doing, bring complicated feelings to this moment – anger may be mixed

with hope, defiance with grieving, forgiveness with fear, all tied together with a heavy dose of exhaustion. There is so much to come to terms with, both within our country and within ourselves, and we can be forgiven for walking around a bit muddled in these last days before November 3.

One way or another, when the voting is done, there will be a new day, a new reality, and a next step.

One way or another, when the voting is done, there will be a new day, a new reality, and a next step. We'll have the chance to gather via Zoom the day after the election to share our reflections and feelings, whatever the outcome, or to be with each other in uncertainty if we don't yet know. I hope you'll join us at 6:30 pm on November 4 to be together as a congregation. It won't be a service – just a time to be with each other, reflect together and begin the healing.

Whatever happens, I honestly believe that Unitarian Universalism is exactly what the world needs. Thank you for helping to meet that need.

– 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.

Send Photos for Our All Souls Day Service

Each year in our congregation on the first Sunday of November, we remember our ancestors and those who have died. Since this year's service will be online, we will create a "virtual altar."

Send photos of those you are remembering, or objects that connect

you with them, to Rev. Dan at email: **minister**. To create this part of the service, we need photos right away. On November 1, we'll invite you to light your own candle for those you remember as we set aside this day to honor the dead and celebrate their lives.



A Welcoming
Congregation

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

Sunday Services

Children's RE
9:00-10:00
Youth RE
11:00-noon
Zoom



*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.*

NOTE

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

Nov 1 10 am

ALL SOULS

Rev. Dan Schatz

In cultures across the world, November 1 is a day for honoring the dead – both ancestors and those we have known and loved who have died. For our All Souls Day service this year, we will do both, and also remember those who have died from COVID-19. For our “virtual altar,” please email photos of those people you are remembering, or of objects from them that are meaningful to you, to email: [executive-team](#) as soon as possible. You will also be invited to light a candle wherever you are in memory of your ancestors and those you have lost.

Nov 8 10 am

NOW WHAT?

Rev. Dan Schatz

With the election over, where do we go from here?

Nov 15 10 am

**AWAKENING
THE SPIRITUAL HEART**

Rev. Addae Kraba

Author Paulo Coelho says we will never be able to escape from our heart, so it's better to listen to what it has to say, because our heart is the link between body and spirit, instinct and inspiration. Our physical heart beats in time with the rhythm of the universe, doing the physical work of supplying our body with the life force without our attention. Concentrating on this rhythm serves to remind us that we are spiritual beings having a human experience rather than the other way around.

Addae Kraba serves as Minister to the UU New Braunfels congregation in Texas. She earned a Master of Divinity from Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California after receiving a BS in Organizational Behavior from the U. of San Francisco. Prior to ministry, she spent over twenty years in the field of mental health.

Reverend Kraba was called as Chaplain providing Pastoral Care in New Orleans after hurricane Katrina, and again to the Knoxville UU Church shooting in Tennessee.

Nov 22 10 am

BAKING BREAD

Rev. Dan Schatz

2020 has been a year of home, family, and for many, fresh baked bread. For our very special bread service, we'll celebrate the bread we make, launch our annual Guest At Your Table drive, and safely share bread with a special curbside bread communion on Lacey Street immediately following the service. Come by between 11:15 and 12:30, after the service, and receive a portion of bread (gluten and nut free options will be available) and a blessing. You won't have to get out of the car (but do wear masks).

If you would like to bring bread for the communion or help distribute bread into bags, please contact email: [minister](#) as soon as possible. If you'd like to share your favorite bread recipe (baking it for the service is optional), upload or share this [link](#).

Nov 29 10 am

**APPLYING UU PRINCIPLES IN THE
PURSUIT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT PHARMACEUTICALS**

Barbara Handelin

Today's biopharmaceutical companies have a primary duty baked into their corporate charter to maximize profits over all other duties, responsibilities, and objectives. While profits are necessary for a sustainable business, when they are the primary driver, every decision made is in service to them. Therefore, solving or relieving disease suffering becomes secondary to finding great market opportunities.

UCWC Member Barbara Handelin is the founder of the first public benefit pharmaceutical company, Audacity Therapeutics, and of a related mission-driven, non-predatory investment fund. Both were created to serve all patients who lack effective treatment for serious conditions – recognizing that this applies to most of us. Their promise: make high medical impact sustainably priced drugs. Barbara will share Audacity Fund and Company's overarching principles that apply to her UU Spiritual Path of having the courage to stand up for justice, compassion, and contributing to a better world.

From the President

Whatever the outcome of this year's election, the serious and deep divisions in our country will remain. Those divisions are so pronounced, they can fracture relationships we have with family members or friends.



When that's the case, most of us have a natural tendency to steer clear of conversations that might produce conflict. But pursuing dialogue with these family members or friends is a one way we as UUs can live our values and help steer the country in the direction we need to go. Because if we are going to have a country where our amazingly diverse range of people can live together

in peace, we have to learn to work through our differences.

For launching this kind of dialogue, keep in mind that most people want to be heard and understood. They want to feel they have some ability to influence the course of their lives.

Beginning by saying that you appreciate something about the person helps forestall a defensive reaction. "Uncle Joe, I know you are the first to help a neighbor in need." Be sure what you say is honest and sincere. (Note: If you're dealing with someone like a wife-beating racist, well, you're justified in refusing to engage with them.)

Seeking understanding means asking questions that are exploratory, not accusatory. Like, "I can tell you feel strongly about _____. I'd like to know more about why it's so important to you." Or, "How has your experience in life affected your views on this issue?"

Then listen for shared values. One area of common ground might be "I want my government to be responsive to people like me, not the wealthy or well-connected insiders." Follow-up questions like "What changes do you think would help?" will focus the discussion toward solutions.

Asking, "What do you think the other side wants?" may open the way to discuss perspectives like yours. However, as those of us who participated in the Better Angels communication training a couple of years ago learned, your conversation partner may not show similar curiosity about your own views. So be it.

And you shouldn't begin any discussion expecting that you will change the other person's mind. The goal is to talk with someone, not deliver a debate zinger at their expense. Losing in a debate never changed anyone's mind. Being heard and listening to people they respect who hold different views is what can make a difference.

These kinds of discussions are tiny steps, to be sure. But at this micro level, they help build the civic skills needed for us to find common ground in our diverse country — a critical task if our democratic system of government is going to function in the face of today's bitter divisions.

Auction Roundup

The auction was a success in all respects. We had 89 wonderful donations, a suspenseful online silent auction, a yummy bake sale, and a fun live Zoom auction, all essentially glitch-free. We made over \$6,200 — very good considering we couldn't offer our popular in-home dinners and parties.



Now we need to collect. You should have received your invoice by email on October 18. If you have made your payment, thank you! Otherwise:

- Mail your check (with "Auction" and your paddle number in the memo field) to:
Unitarian Congregation of West Chester
501 South High Street
West Chester, PA 19382
- Pay with credit card or bank payment by clicking [here](#).
- Pay with PayPal by clicking [here](#).

Thank you so much for your generous participation. If you have a question about your invoice, email Steve Sander at email: [fellowtarian](#). Other questions may be sent to email: [auction](#).

A very big thank you to all the people who helped make the auction so successful:

- Steve Sander for creating the auction catalog, designing and maintaining the online silent auction web pages, recording the live virtual auction, and emailing invoices to the winners.
- Nancy Artus for continuing to oversee the whole auction after stepping back from being chair.
- Janine Galen for stepping up to help Nancy.
- Ed Cohle for running the live auction.
- Carolyn LaTulip and her Small Group Ministry for running the desert bake sale, and all the bakers.
- The Finance Team for keeping track of payments.
- All the donors.
- All the bidders and winners.
- Everyone who joined in the fun.

Lifespan Faith Development

VOTE Rocks

Everyone can do a small part to help encourage others to vote this election by painting and placing VOTE Rocks. Stop by our building on November 1 from 2 to 5 pm to pick up a VOTE Rocks kit with everything you need to get creative. Once decorated, place your rock where people will see it and be inspired to VOTE.

Explorations

Join us for *Explorations: A Program for Beginning and Deepening UU Journeys*. Come one, come all! Whether you're new to Unitarian Universalism or you've been with us for years, join in our Explorations class.

This small group-style program uses readings and discussions to foster relationships and spiritual growth. We encourage those who joined us in October to come again, and we invite any others who would still like to join to RSVP to email: **Adult-RE**. See calendar this page for details.

REflections: Religious Education Update REflections

November is one of my favorite months, as it is the season of gratitude. Each year we celebrate our blessings of laughter and friends, love, and family, and of course the food. But as we face such a different Thanksgiving this year in the midst of a pandemic, it may be hard to be thankful when nothing is what we thought it would be.



So much has changed these past months, but it is because of these changes we must have gratitude for the many things we once took for granted and for the things that have come out in response to a uniquely difficult 2020. We can still be grateful in spite of and because of everything going on around us.

This month, we are giving thanks by giving back to one another and to our community. We join together — all ages, members, friends, and families — for our Intergenerational Bread Service on November 22, sharing our bread and company together. We will also be sharing our blessings this month with the Adopt-a-Family program, as we help all families celebrate Christmas this year.

I would be remiss in speaking of gratitude without extending it to our wonderful congregation. Thank you, UCWC, for your dedication to welcome and perseverance. To all our committees for planning our important events. To our amazing teachers and facilitators who are showing us that faith formation is always continuing. To our families and members for your engagement with our community in worship, learning, and fun. To Rev. Dan, Miriam, Jason, and all those who are planning and leading such nourishing worship. Thank you all, we got this, let's keep going.

— Cassie Lengel
email: **DLFD**

RE Calendar

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Nov 1 | All Ages RE Class. Stop by the building for a VOTE Rocks kit. |
| Nov 2 | Explorations Class 3. "Sources of our Faith" |
| Nov 8 | Normal RE Classes |
| Nov 15 | Normal RE Classes |
| Nov 16 | Explorations Class 4. What Do I Believe? |
| Nov 22 | RE will join in the Intergenerational Bread Service instead of our classes. Stop by the building to share bread after the service. |
| Nov 29 | Normal RE Classes |
| Nov 30 | Explorations Class "How Shall We Live?" |

Men's Group

The Tuesday evening men's group will meet on November 10 at 7:00 pm via Zoom — on the second Tuesday this November only. The topic will be the elections. All men are welcome, and 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**.



Pastoral Care

The **Pastoral Care Team** contact for this month is **Carrie Sandler**



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 on this platform. For easy instructions, click [here](#).

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 contact email: [sgm](#).



UU Q&A

Sunday, November 8, at 11 am
During Zoom Coffee Hour

Do you have questions about Unitarian Universalism?

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

When you "arrive" at Zoom coffee hour, either "raise your hand" or mention that you'd like to go to the Q&A.

We're looking forward to chatting with you.



Post-Election Gathering November 4 at 6:30 pm

On November 4, Rev. Dan will host a session on Zoom for all who would like to share reflections and feelings following the election. All are welcome, regardless of political views. This is our chance to reflect on the election, the past four years, and the days ahead as Unitarian Universalists.

Calling All Bakers (and Others)!

As part of our November 22 bread service, we'll be holding a curbside bread communion.

This takes a bit more planning than the average year, and we'll need the following volunteers:

- **Bakers.** Can you make (or buy) a loaf or two of bread to share? We need all bread by Saturday, November 21, so it can be safely cut and put into bags. We also invite all our bakers to share recipes [here](#).
- **A Few Saturday Bread Cutters.** We'll need a few people to help us collect the bread on Saturday and get it ready for Sunday's curbside pickup.
- **Sunday Helpers.** We'll need to set up our canopy and a table in time for the pickup.

If you can help with any of these roles, please contact email: [executive-team](#) as soon as possible.



Minister's Hours

In person office hours are suspended during the epidemic, but Rev. Dan can be reached at email: [minister](#) or on his cell phone at 484-653-5011. He will be away from the office from November 9-16.

If you have pastoral needs during this time, please contact email: [pastoral-care](#). For other questions, contact email: [office](#).

Social Justice

Diversity Book Group

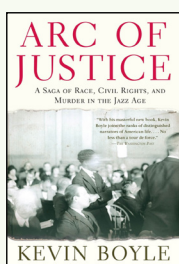
Sun, Nov. 8 7:00 – 8:30 pm on Zoom

Leader: Sandy Schaal

Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age by Kevin G. Boyle

The grandson of a slave, Dr. Ossian Sweet moved his family to an all-white Detroit neighborhood in 1925. When his neighbors attempted to drive him out, Sweet defended himself — resulting in the death of a white man and a murder trial for Sweet.

There followed one of the most important (and shockingly unknown) cases in Civil Rights history. Also caught up in the intense courtroom drama were legal giant Clarence Darrow and the newly formed National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).



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:



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

NEW! You can now donate to the Food Cupboard on the UCWC donation web page — click [here](#) and select “Grocery Cards for Food Cupboard.”

Contact Cyndy Bullaughey, email: [grocery-program](#), for more information.

During the pandemic, The West Chester Food Cupboard commits to provide a variety of fresh and nonperishable healthy food items to anyone who resides in Pennsylvania, not just the West Chester school district...because no one should go hungry!



Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil

Nov 20 at 6:30 pm

Each year our congregation partners with the LGBT Equality Alliance of Chester County to host a Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil.

This year’s vigil will be held on Zoom. We will honor and share the names of transgender people who have lost their lives to violence in the past year and have an opportunity for conversation and sharing. Please have a candle handy to light in honor of those we remember.

Criminal Justice

The non-profit, non-partisan Prison Policy Initiative produces cutting edge research to expose the broader harm of mass criminalization, and then sparks advocacy campaigns to create a more just society. **Their website** is a treasure trove of cutting edge data as well as a concise discussion of the issues including the “**Five Myths about Mass Incarceration.**”

Everyone is intensely focused on the election, but after November 3, the **UUJusticePA Criminal Justice Team** will

focus on education and action related to probation, parole, and prison reform. Black people, other people of color, and poor people as a whole suffer the most severe effects of the terrible flaws in our criminal justice. Please think about getting involved in these important issues. Contact Robin Garrett at email: [criminal-justice](#) so we can talk about what kind of involvement will fit for you.



— Robin Garrett

Liaison to UUJusticePA Criminal Justice Team

Defenders of Democracy

We are coming down the stretch in the election, and it looks like more people will vote in Pennsylvania than ever before.

Still have your mail in ballot? Please use a drop box rather than mailing it in.

There are eleven drop box locations and two satellite voting offices in Chester County. Drop your ballot into a **drop box** anytime up to the election. At a **satellite voting office**, you can register to vote, get a ballot, and vote all in one trip. Find their locations [here](#).

UUtheVote PA offers phone and text bank opportunities right up until the election. Why do it? The people you touch could be the difference in the election.

Continue to spread the democracy.

—Tom, Charlot, and Matt



UUJusticePA Gun Violence Prevention

UUJusticePA has joined its coalition partner, CeaseFire PA, in a three-pronged Common Agenda to Stop Gun Violence:

- **Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs).** Keeping guns out of the hands of persons at imminent risk of committing gun violence.
- **Universal Background Checks.** Closing the state's long gun private sale loophole.
- **Lost or Stolen Gun Reporting.** Preventing straw purchases and the illegal gun trade.



UUJusticePA is seeking groups willing to join this statewide coalition fighting gun violence.

— Tom Buglio

UUJusticePA Gun Violence Prevention

UUSC Guest at Your Table

You want to fight the injustices you see in the world, but with so many emails and requests, how do you know what specific actions to take?

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) takes the action you would take if you only had the time, resources, and knowledge. In November we start the **Guest at Your Table** season at our November 22 Sunday service.

We won't be handing out the boxes, envelopes, and **Stories of Hope** booklets this year, but you can find them here:

Make Your Own Guest at Your Table Box
Stories of Hope Booklet

This year's theme is **The Meaning of Home**. Our partners in Central America are working to make sure no one is forced to flee their home due to violence or economic devastation. Our partners in Alaska, Louisiana, and the Pacific are fighting for their homes and ancestral lands against the ravages of extractive industries and climate change. And our partners in Burma, Bangladesh, and beyond are working tirelessly to support the rights of the Rohingya ethnic minority of Burma after facing government backed genocide in their homeland.

As you think about the gifts you have, and as you consider your charitable donations at the end of the year, **donate to become a member of the UUSC**. When you do, it is a big step forward that you can take personally to defend human rights.



Adopt A Family This Christmas

It's getting to be that time of year again, and as we prepare for the holidays we are reminded of our neighbors during this difficult year. So once again, we are partnering with the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County to support families with gifts to supplement what would otherwise be a difficult Christmas.



Once we have been matched with a family, we will have a list of all gifts requested from which you can choose to buy. We will collect these gifts early in December in a contactless drop off at our building before bringing them to the organization.

We hope we will all celebrate what blessings we have by sharing with these families. For more information contact Cassie Lengel at email: **DLFD** and watch **Connections** for our list.

Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

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



This month's Share
the Plate recipient is
The Baby Food Fund.



Donate [HERE](#).

Nov 1	Sun	All-Ages RE and Vote Rock Pickup. 2-5 pm. See p. 4. First Sunday Food Collection. See p. 6. Defenders of Democracy. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 7.
Nov 2	Mon	Adult RE: Explorations. 6:30 pm. See p. 4. Executive Committee. 6:30 pm.
Nov 3	Tue	Election Day. Vote your UU principles.
Nov 4	Wed	Post-Election Gathering. 6:30 pm. Zoom. See p. 5.
Nov 8	Sun	Q&A Session. After the service. Zoom. See p. 5. Diversity Book Group. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 6.
Nov 9	Mon	Religious Services Committee. 6 :00 pm. Contact email: religious-services .
Nov 10	Tue	Men's Group. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 4. Program Council Meeting. 7:00 pm. Zoom.
Nov 15	Sun	Share-the-Plate Sunday. Benefits the Baby Food Fund. See left.
Nov 16	Mon	Adult RE: Explorations. 6:30 pm. See p. 4.
Nov 17	Tue	Board Meeting. 6:30 pm. Zoom.
Nov 18	Wed	Religious Education Committee. 7:00 pm. Zoom.
Nov 20	Fri	Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil. 6:30 pm. Zoom. See p. 6.
Nov 21	Sat	Last Day to Bring Bread for the Bread Service. See p. 5.
Nov 22	Sun	Guest at Your Table Kickoff. See p. 7.
Nov 24	Tue	Committee on Ministry. 6:30 pm.
Nov 30	Mon	Adult RE: Explorations. 6:30 pm. See p. 4.

EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:

Tuesdays	Women's Kaffeeklatsch. 9:00 am. Zoom.
Most Thursdays	Spirit Singers Practice. at 7:30 pm. Zoom. For specific dates, contact Miriam Davidson, email: choir .
Fridays	Women's Corona Cocktail Party. 7:00-8:30 pm. Zoom.
Various Dates	Small Group Ministry (Several Active Groups). See web calendar or contact email: SGM . See p. 5.

**VOTE VOTE VOTE
VOTE VOTE VOTE
VOTE VOTE VOTE
VOTE VOTE VOTE**

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.)

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Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

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All email addresses [@ucwc.org](#)

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