

# THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

May 2021



## NOTES FROM REV. DAN

***"If you don't like the weather, wait a minute."***

I've heard that expression just about everywhere I've lived, but it was especially true during New England Springs. A warm day could turn to snow in minutes, or so it felt — but before long, all would be flowers and gentle breezes again. If you were going out, you just had to plan for every possibility.

The past fifteen months have felt a lot like that. We've made our plans, had to change them, made them again, and changed again. We've seen some truly glorious moments and had to deal with real hardship. And we've all had to learn to be flexible.

As we start to plan for the Fall at our congregation, I'm keeping those New England Springs in mind. The truth is that we don't know exactly what will happen or how things will pan out. We do know the general direction things will go — we will meet again, in person. We will sing together again, eat together again, enjoy Sunday School together again. The path to get there is more complicated, and we may not have to wait long before we need to adjust again. Right now, case numbers are still high, and children are not vaccinated. Things may look different in the Fall.

We do have plans, of course, and with every plan comes contingencies and the recognition that it may or may not actually happen when or how we expect it to. We're trying to hold both safety and inclusiveness — along with respect for science, acknowledgement of the interdependent web, and the worth and dignity of all — at heart as we discern.

Here's what we think we know so far:

- We will hold no indoor activities through the Summer. At least until September, anything we do will be online or outdoors.
- Outdoor events (other than walk-up / drive-up activities) will depend on the COVID test positivity rates in Chester County, and will be socially distanced and masked. (Click [here](#) for full guidelines on outdoor events.)
- We hope to begin in-person services on September 12. These will likely be masked and socially distanced (we may have two services even if they're both small). Whether we meet that date and what the services look like if we do depend on a number of factors, including vaccination levels and case numbers in the area. It may take a while before things feel like they used to. (Will we be able to sing hymns or share food right away? We don't know yet!) We will continue to livestream services from the sanctuary when we begin meeting in person.
- Religious Education is planning for every possibility — whatever we do, safety and inclusiveness will be priorities.
- Fall plans will be finalized after I return from sabbatical at the end of August.

This is what we know so far — or what we think we know. We do know that we will not meet in person until we have every indication it is safe to do so, and that we will meet in person again. We hope it's in September, but if it's later than that, we'll adjust, and we'll be fine.

And if we don't like the weather — wait a minute!

— 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](mailto:office@ucwc.org)  
[www.ucwc.org](http://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.*

## NOTE:

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

**May 2 10 am**

**WE ARE LIKE THESE FLOWERS**

**Rev. Dan Schatz and Cassie Lengel**

Our annual **All Ages Flower Service** celebrates the beauty in diversity and the gifts each of us bring to community. If you have not yet sent your flower selfie to email: minister, please do so right away.

**May 9 10 am**  
**Apple,**

**THE MOTHERHOOD JOURNEY**

**Laura Lynch, Krista Katie Farnum, Heidi Frayer**

Mother's Day — a holiday honoring motherhood — is observed in different forms throughout the world. In the United States, Mother's Day continues to be celebrated by presenting mothers and other women with gifts and flowers, and it has become one of the biggest holidays for consumer spending. Families also celebrate by giving mothers a day off from activities like cooking or other household chores.

Mother's Day may also be a day of reflection about one of the most important relationships in our lives, honoring motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. Please join four UCWC congregants as they share how the Motherhood Journey has shaped their lives in many ways.

**May 16 10 am**

**HOW CAN WE KEEP FROM SINGING?**

**Miriam Davidson, Rev. Dan Schatz, and UCWC Congregants**

This year's Music Sunday pays homage to the musicians and singers who have put their hearts, souls, and recording equipment into making our services soar during these challenging times.

**May 23 10 am**

**THE DIGNITY OF TRUTH**

**Rev. Steve Brown**

Guest minister Steve Brown invites us to consider dignity and truth, two key themes of the "human condition." Artists, poets, philosophers, and theologians have pondered these themes for millennia. Steve's vocation has been to translate theories about dignity and truth into practice at the community level. Engaging with UCWC on these themes, Steve will draw on readings and insights from contemporary writers such as angel Kyodo William, Isabel Wilkerson, and Luis Alberto Urrea in the context of some timeless wisdom drawn from Shakespeare and the prophet Isaiah.

Born in Tucson, Arizona, Steve grew up on a cattle ranch near the Mexican border, and before the pandemic divided his time among Tucson, Cape Cod, and Brisbane, Australia, where his daughter and her family live. After graduating from Yale in with a degree in African American Studies, he and his wife Alice lived in Manchester, VT, and then on Cape Cod. In 1988 he received a Master's degree in Pastoral Ministry with a focus on education from Boston College, and was Commissioned as a Minister of Healing and Reconciliation. Since then, he has pursued his vocation through "Commonwealth Solutions," a consulting firm that catalyzes relationships that promote human dignity as the foundation of human rights and public health. He has written and published several books of fiction. Now "semi-retired," he brings his vocation to a community-based effort to establish "Desert Sage School", the first Waldorf-inspired public high school in Tucson.

**May 30 10 am**

**A THESPIAN EFFORT and UCWC Congregants**

**Rev. Kate Rohde**

Actors from UCWC will present a reader's theater production as the foundation of this Sunday service. The title will be announced when rights are secured. Look for it in *Connections* and on our website.

## From the President

In our *Fellowtarian* format, the president's message doesn't carry a headline, so I'm going to start by writing one: **"Let's Talk about Love."**

As your UCWC Board worked on the congregational mission statement that we will review at our annual meeting in June, the word "love" was a quiet undercurrent. Words like "community" and "connection" and "support" were much more common. But "love" proved to be the word that encompassed all those related ideas.



This sense of the word "love" comes from the more Universalist side of our heritage. For more Unitarian-oriented folks like me, talking about "love" can seem pretty touchy-feely. But this universal love is a fundamental aspect of who we are as UUs. It is what leads us to recognize the inherent worth and dignity of every person, which frankly is often a challenge for me, especially considering the way some powerful officials treat our country's disadvantaged and marginalized people.

I'm helped in remembering this call toward universal love by listening to a singer my older son recommended to me when he was in college. Jack Johnson, a mellow surfer-type with a smooth voice, sings

*Love is the answer, at least for most of the questions in my heart  
Like why are we here? And where do we go?*

Our congregation's work on our mission statement has revealed that one place we want to go is to grow the circle of love we share with others — newcomers, members, perhaps even people who've never heard of us.

At UCWC, we have a standard list of things we do (or at least, want to do) along these lines. When a visitor arrives, virtually or in person, we welcome them and gently start getting to know each other, hoping to learn about the journey that led the newcomer to us. Outside of Sundays, we try to stay connected to visitors and new members, so they feel a part of our community. We offer many ways to deepen our connection with each other beyond Sunday Services.

It's always valuable to reflect on how these efforts have worked and to be open to new ideas going forward. One area where we can do more is making systematic efforts to open our door to those who would find meaning in community with us but don't know we're here. It would help us honor the value we profess every Sunday, that "great good comes from wide diversity."

I invite your thoughts on what we've traditionally done in this area and what we can do better. And if these questions, these goals, resonate with you, if you are intrigued — I'd like to talk further. (Contact me at email: [president](#).) You may be just the person to lead our membership team.

## 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.

Dan will be on leave May 19-30. For pastoral care during this time, please write to email: [pastoral-care](#). For other questions, please contact email: [office](#).

## Coming Up Town Hall and Annual Meeting

All UCWC members are invited to two events that reflect our commitment to the democratic process in congregational affairs. First is a Town Hall on May 16, after the Sunday Service, to discuss our proposed budget for the coming fiscal year. Your questions are welcome.

The other is our annual meeting on June 6 after the Sunday Service, when we will vote on our congregation's yearly budget and elect members to the Board and nominating committees.

To vote, you must be a member of UCWC as of May 6. Contact the **Membership Committee** to learn your status or to become a member.



## 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 have moved to this platform. For easy instructions, click [here](#).

# Lifespan Faith Development

## Ethical Discussion Group Based on "The Good Place"

This Adult RE discussion group will meet the first and third Wednesday of each month to watch and discuss an episode(s) of the hit TV show on NBC, "The Good Place" and discuss its ethical questions.

This show is hilarious, and it offers a fun way to discuss and explore our morals and values. How do we form beliefs and how do they stand up to time and testing? How do we decide to live a moral life, what are the ramifications, and what about an afterlife? How do we integrate the inherent worth and dignity of ourselves and others into how we act? And so much more!

RSVP to email: **adult-RE** or join us for any session. We are currently into Season 2. (Season 1 is available to borrow if needed.)

## REflections: Religious Education Update

Many of us have heard the phrase, April showers bring May flowers, and I know I am seeing this come to fruition in our Religious Education Programs right now. We have spent the past month of April connecting with our inner creativity as we enjoyed a beautiful Poetry Service, made Kindness Rocks together, celebrated the chalk art at the congregation, practiced meditation styles, and so much more. All this creativity from April is causing us to bloom into deeper and more beautiful community with one another in May.

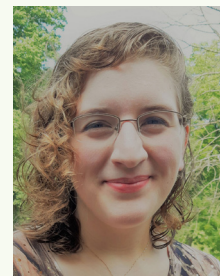
As we look at this month, we are preparing for some of our community's beloved rituals including our Flower Service, our Music Sunday, and even our upcoming RE Sunday and Annual Meeting. We are a creative and thoughtful congregation, and as we are using that energy to bloom into community, we are growing in our Religious Education Programs — both as individuals and together.

We are stretching our minds through our Sunday classes, we are putting our beliefs into action by considering our ethics through "The Good Place", we are trying different spiritual practices to feel our faith, and we are listening to our stories through Explorations and small group ministries.

We are nurturing our community with creativity and our presence like the sun and water. We are growing our roots deep into our Unitarian Universalist faith. We are stretching our branches and leaves out to touch one another.

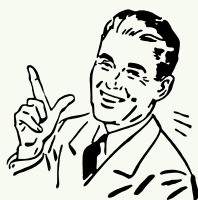
We are blooming into a beautiful and diverse community of UCWC.

— Cassie Lengel  
email: **DLFD**



## Men's Group

The Tuesday evening men's group will meet on May 4 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. 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 or Dirk at email: **mens-group**.



## RE Sunday

All are invited to our celebration of RE Sunday on June 6. We are looking forward to hearing from our children, youth, and adults as we join across all ages to celebrate our growth this year. We will think about what UCWC means to us, why we do faith development work, what we get out of our learning community, and how we can keep journeying together.

We hope our teachers will save the date as we would like to say a special thank you to all of you who helped this year, and we hope to entice everyone else to join RE with some fun shenanigans from the RE Committee. We hope everyone in the congregation will join us as we celebrate our children and youth and show our support.

## Pastoral Care

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



## COVID Guidelines for Events

During the coming months, we hope to begin some small scale outdoor, socially-distanced and masked events — assuming COVID case numbers in the area are sufficiently low.

The Executive Team has set guidelines for holding in-person UCWC events. Where people remain together for extended time (e.g., small group ministry or committee meetings), they need to be small sessions, outdoors, socially-distanced, with masks, and held only when the COVID test positivity rate in Chester County is under 5%. (That test data is available [here](#).) Walk-up and drive-up events do not have to meet the 5% test threshold, but the other rules apply. The full policy on in-person meetings is [here](#).



## Join Us This Spring for “Explorations” A Program for Beginning and Deepening Our UU Journeys

After a successful series this fall, we are bringing back the Explorations program for this spring. This is a small-group-style program that is a great way to make some connections and deepen your relationships with others as you engage some guided readings and discussion questions together.

The program examines what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist through weekly topics that bring together newcomers and longtime members alike as we delve into our common faith and our individual experiences.

We will meet on the **second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 7 pm for five sessions**. You do not need to attend all five to participate, but we’d love to have you for as many as you can make. Join us April 14, 28, May 12, 26, and June 9. RSVP to email: [adult-RE](#) or join us on zoom as you can.

## Is This Year’s GA beckoning You?

This year’s annual meeting of our national UU denomination, known as “General Assembly” or “GA,” will be held online June 23-27. GA includes a range of workshops and speakers, along with the chance to meet other UUs from around the country. Anyone can attend — register for \$200 [here](#).

UCWC is entitled to send four members as “credentialed” delegates, which means you would have full voting rights in electing UUA officers and deciding other official UUA actions. Some intensely debated denominational issues are sure to be discussed. (For examples, Google “UU Fifth Principle” and “UU Eighth Principle.”) Credentialed UCWC delegates are free to use their independent judgment in casting their votes.

Contact Matt Zencey at email: [president](#), if you’d like the Board to designate you as a credentialed delegate. Three slots are still available.



## 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](#).



## Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

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

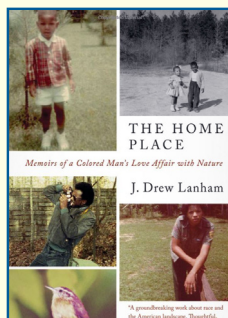
## Black Lives Matter

The Black Lives Matter committee strives to keep our congregation aware of ongoing racial injustice. Several of our committee members are active with local boards and organizations that promote education and awareness of inequities within marginalized communities. If anyone is interested in getting involved, please contact us at email: **black-lives-matter**. We are happy to answer any questions or direct your inquiry where it can be addressed. Please also look

at **our web page** to see what we have done and what is upcoming.

The committee's monthly Racial Equity Discussion will be Sunday, May 23, at 7 p.m. We will watch and discuss a **TED talk by Beratunde Thurston** entitled "How to Deconstruct Racism, One Headline at a Time."

We also recommend participating in the Longwood Gardens virtual discussion of *The Home Place* with the author and black wildlife ecologist J. Drew Latham. Details are available on the **Longwood website**.

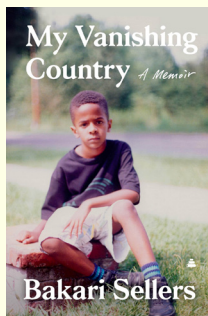


## Diversity Book Group

May 16 (Third Sunday because of Mother's Day on May 9)  
7:00 - 8:30 pm

This month's book is *My Vanishing Country* by Bakari Sellers. What J. D. Vance did for Appalachia with *Hillbilly Elegy*, Bakari Sellers does for the rural South in this important book that illuminates the lives of America's forgotten black working-class men and women. Sellers is a CNN analyst and one of the youngest state representatives in South Carolina history.

Fred Frayer will lead.



The primary election is coming on May 18. Your vote is amplified many times over, because primary elections have many fewer voters than the general election in November.

Normally, the primary is only for registered Democrat and Republican voters, who vote for the candidate of their own party to run in the general election. However, this primary is for everyone, including independents, since there are four ballot questions for all to consider.

The deadline to register is May 3. At **VotesPA.com** you can:

- Find out if you are registered.
- Register to vote.
- Apply for a mail-in ballot - deadline May 11

**JOIN**

**SIDE WITH  
LOVE**

**UUJusticePA**  
Unitarian Universalist Justice Pennsylvania

**#JusticeMarchesOn**

**TODAY**

Go to **uujusticepa.org/donate**

## 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

You can also 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.

The West Chester Food Cupboard commits to provide a variety of fresh and nonperishable healthy food items to anyone who resides in the West Chester school district... because no one should go hungry!



UCWC



CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM Team

## Upcoming Events

- **Monday, May 17 at 7:30 pm.** “Reforming the System,” sponsored by Black Citizen and FAMM, a screening of a video originally taped live on March 14. Three progressive district attorneys (Chesa Boudin, Larry Krasner, and Rachel Rollin) discuss how racism intersects with other serious flaws in the justice system. Discussion time will be included in addition to viewing the video.
- **Wednesday, May 26 at 4:30 pm.** The UCWC Criminal Justice Reform team will meet to discuss upcoming programs and activities including ideas from Daniel Hunter’s organizing guide, *Building a Movement to End the New Jim Crow*.

Zoom links for these programs will be available in [Connections](#), or contact email: [criminal-justice](#).

## UUSC Update

No doubt you’re really glad to see the positive change and focus on policies to address climate change. Your support of the UUSC by your [once-a-year donation](#) is helping. Read about policies you can support to help climate justice [here](#).

In the recent recommendations in a [shared letter](#) (including UUSC) to the Biden administration, we can find hope in these statements:

*Recognize that the U.S. will not be breaking new ground in a vacuum — and that significant progress has been made from which to build upon. While the Trump administration made a concerted effort to withdraw from international accords and frameworks, they persisted without us; and in many cases, have made significant progress from which we should learn.*

While there were backward steps in the US response to climate change, we can and are changing that situation as we rejoin the global progress.

**Call to Action:** Vote on May 18. Local elections are exceedingly important.

## UU Q&A..?

**Sunday, May 9, at 11 am**  
**During Zoom Coffee Hour**

*Do you have questions about Unitarian Universalism or UCWC?*

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.*



# Calendar

All email addresses  
@ucwc.org

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



**Don't miss  
the May 16  
Town Hall.**

## 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 [password-  
protected page](#). (Access  
to that page will be  
distributed appropriately.)

Apr 30-May 2	Jubilee Anti-racism Training. See April <i>Fellowtarian</i> , p. 7.
May 2 Sun	First Sunday Food Collection. See p. 7.
	Defenders of Democracy. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 6.
May 3 Mon	Executive Committee. 7:00 pm.
May 4 Tue	Men's Group. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 4.
May 5 Wed	Adult RE - The Good Place. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 4.
	Small Group Facilitators Meeting. 7:00 pm. Zoom.
May 9 Sun	Q&A. 11:00 am. Zoom. See p. 7.
May 10 Mon	Religious Services Committee. 7:00 pm.
May 11 Tue	Program Council Meeting. 7:00 pm. Zoom.
May 12 Wed	Explorations, Adult RE. 7 pm. See p. 5.
May 16 Sun	Share-the-Plate Sunday. Benefits <a href="#">Friends Association for Care and Protection of Children</a> . Click <a href="#">here</a> to donate.
	Town Hall. After the service. See p. 3.
	Diversity Book Group. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 6.
May 17 Mon	Reforming the System Video and Discussion. 7:30 pm. See p. 7.
May 18 Tue	Pennsylvania Primary Election. See p. 6.
	Board Meeting. 6:30 pm. Zoom.
May 19 Wed	Black Lives Matter Committee. 3:00 pm. See p. 6.
	Adult RE - The Good Place. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 4.
May 20 Thu	Religious Education Committee. 4:30 pm. Zoom.
May 23 Sun	Racial Equity Discussion Group TED Talk Viewing. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 6.
May 25 Tue	Committee on Ministry. 6:30 pm.
May 26 Wed	Criminal Justice Reform Team. 4:30 pm. See p. 7.
	Explorations, Adult RE. 7 pm. See p. 5.

### EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:

Tuesdays	Women's Kaffeeklatsch. 9:00 am. Zoom.
Most Thursdays	Spirit Singers Practice. at 7:15 pm. Zoom. For specific dates, contact Miriam Davidson, email: <a href="#">choir</a> .
Fridays	Women's Corona Cocktail Party. 7:00-8:30 pm. Zoom.
Saturdays	Open Zoom Session. 7:00 pm.
Various Dates	Small Group Ministry (Several Active Groups). See <a href="#">web calendar</a> or contact email: <a href="#">SGM</a> . See p. 5.



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