

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

June 2021



NOTES FROM REV. DAN

In the old days, Unitarian congregations used to close down for the summer. There are various reasons suggested for this tradition – in the 1800s it was said that Boston churches emptied out as their wealthy members fled to Cape Cod for the summer. In more Southern climates, a lack of air conditioning has usually been the culprit.

These days, we continue to meet, and although we now have air conditioning, with online services we won't need it. Instead, summer in most UU congregations has become a time for creativity and exploration, with lay led services and guest speakers filling the schedule.

This year, that's more true than ever. With our services online at least through Labor Day, we can gather with our spiritual community from almost anywhere, and our schedule will be even more filled with a diverse group of members, speakers, and other special services. We even expect to begin

a few in-person outdoor gatherings, following our congregational guidelines. (Check back for updates, as the summer goes on.)

As for myself, I'll be gone for a couple of months, on a mini-sabbatical focused on long term recording and editing projects, along with some much needed spiritual renewal. During this time, I'll be unavailable, but neighboring UU ministers will be on call to help with pastoral emergencies that may crop up.

Like most sabbaticals, this will be an opportunity for our congregation's members to practice the ministry all of us share. When I return at the end of August, I will jump into planning, as we assess the COVID situation and finalize our fall plans (and times being what they are, also our fall-back plans).

No, our congregation doesn't close in the summer – and this summer we will be as active and vibrant as ever. Enjoy these warm months!

— In faith, Dan

This summer we will be as active and vibrant as ever.

Summer Contacts

Rev. Dan will be on regular leave from June 7 to June 19, and on sabbatical from June 20 to August 20. During the sabbatical, he will be unavailable by email, phone, or text. UU ministers will be on call for emergency pastoral support, and both our Office Administrator Maggie Christy and Director of Lifespan Faith Development Cassie Lengel will be able to get in touch with Dan in the event of a congregational emergency.

For regular pastoral support, please write to email: **pastoral-care**. For questions about adult programs or children's religious education, please write to email: **DLFD**. For other questions, contact our administrator at email: **office**.

Our Mission

As a diverse liberal faith congregation, we make a difference in our lives, our children's lives, and the wider community by creating an environment for spiritual growth and fulfillment, for building meaningful connections, and for actively advancing peace and justice in the world.



A Welcoming
Congregation

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

Sunday Services



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.

Guidelines for Event Planning

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. For guidelines on planning this kind of event, please click [here](#).

June 6 10 am RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUNDAY **Rev. Dan Schatz, Cassie Lengel, and UCWC Members & Kids**

We invite all ages to join us as we celebrate our congregation's religious education program during the past year.

June 13 10 am AN RV IN THE DESERT Brett Goldman

The award winning film and non-fiction book *Nomadland* raise serious questions about financial stability, physical and mental fortitude, and aging. At first glance, the story appears to be an indictment of the way the United States cares for its senior citizens, along with corporations that seem to take advantage of them. But closer inspection clouds this picture.

How are they hurting themselves and others with their choices? Are we as UU's capable of shedding idealism to be clear-eyed about the struggles of others? And what nomadic aspects of our own lives are worthy of additional self-reflection?

June 20 10 am ALL THE COOL KIDS ARE DOING IT: THE BAD (AND GOOD) OF PEER PRESSURE Chris Hyson

We've all heard about peer pressure, typically in a bad light. Peers might urge us to skip class or have that additional drink. But peers might also pressure us to study for that test or visit our grandparents. We'll delve beyond the dirty word that we usually hear and see what more our peers might offer.

Jun 27 10 am OUR SPIRITUAL PATHS UCWC Congregants

Traveling along each of our spiritual paths is a unique experience. It can be a profound and singular journey and a joy of shared commitment simultaneously. Although Unitarian Universalists affirm the uniqueness and individual nature of a person's spiritual path, our movement is also founded on a belief that community is essential to that journey. Each of us has a story that can be shared as we reflect what UCWC and Unitarian Universalism mean to us.

Please join us as we hear from members of the UCWC Congregation as they share their own spiritual journeys.

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



**DON'T FORGET THE ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 6 AFTER THE SERVICE. SEE P.6.**

From the President



How are we as a congregation doing during the pandemic? A while back, I asked our Committee on Ministry to look into that question. Committee chair Shelly Case and members Emily Sweet and Jim MacFadyen dove into the work, doing nearly 20 interviews in March, using a template developed in consultation with Rev. Dan.

I'm pleased to report that the committee found that most of those surveyed, "felt things were function-

ing quite well given the challenges of the time."

The committee's report was admirably brief, with bulleted highlights. Here is a lightly edited version of their core findings:



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**.



Committee on Ministry Core Findings

What is Working Well

- Overwhelming positive feedback about services and music
- Cassie bringing new ideas to Religious Education
- Small Group Ministries
- Adult RE
- Religious services committee is running smoothly
- Social justice committee and sub-committees going well
- Pastoral care is running well
- People look forward to the future prospect of hybrid (live and virtual) service
- Overall, very few (1-2) reports of members being disengaged from the congregation

Areas of Need

Clear communication and leadership in the transition back to meeting in-person. (*Note: The current plan is to resume in-person worship September 12, with details on hymns, social hour, food, etc. to be determined in late August, when Rev. Dan returns from his 2-month summer sabbatical.*)

Maintaining personal relationships and connectedness is a challenge. People expressed interest in summer gatherings but are uncertain as to the process. (*Note: The Executive Team has since issued guidelines on that score. Click [here](#) for more.*)

Struggles

- Some students, particularly older ones, are not engaging in Religious Education
- Online social gatherings (social hour, stewardship) in general not working well
- Hospitality groups (this was a pre-COVID struggle as well)
- Engaging with new people in virtual services
- It is difficult to tell who may have disengaged from the congregation
- Volunteerism, recruiting new committee members is a challenge
- Leadership development (e.g. still need a membership chair)

Lifespan Faith Development

While you are taking time for rest this summer, we also know that connection with our UCWC community can be a lifegiving source for you,

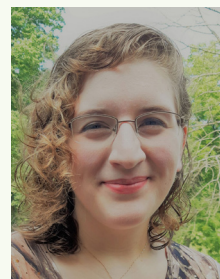
RE Sunday

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 out 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.

REflections: Religious Education Update

I don't know about all of you, but I'm amazed that it's June already. This year has been so full of deepening relationships, learning opportunities, and our wonderful community – yet it has flown by. I suppose that is what is meant by, "time flies when you're having fun." This June, we invite you to join us as we wrap up our 2020-2021 Religious Education classes with our RE Sunday Celebration. Come and see what our children and youth have been working on this year; lift up how BRAVE we have been this year, and help us say thank you to all those who have contributed to RE as teachers, advisors, and facilitators.



Then, as we wrap up this year's programs and enter our summer format, I'd invite you to take a breath. Use this time to rest and recuperate. As the pandemic comes to a close, we encourage you to get your vaccines so you can begin to see family and friends as it is safe to do so.

Make your connections again and find what brings you joy. Let this summer be a time of healing, recuperation, and reenergizing so we can come back in the fall with full hearts, open minds, and hands ready to dig in.

While you are taking time for rest this summer, we also know that connection with our UCWC community can be a lifegiving source for you, and we've got several opportunities you may enjoy. First, we invite you to check your **Connections** for our Summer Outdoor Ice Cream Socials. We are hoping to have these once a month over the summer (our health guidelines permitting) and we'd love to see you there. Second, we will be holding a few adult RE classes that may interest you as we explore the Bible and Christ in a Unitarian Universalist way, and give a sneak peak to our World Religions classes this fall.

Finally, I hope you will all consider the journey we are on through Religious Education and consider where your gifts may lie in offering your talents this fall. We have many opportunities, and we want YOU to join us.

— Cassie Lengel, email: **DLDF**

Join Us This Spring for "Explorations": A Program for Beginning and Deepening our UU Journeys

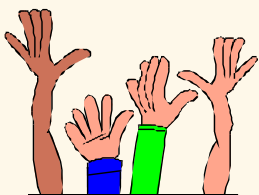
We are so grateful for everyone who has been joining us for our Spring sessions of Explorations. This is a Small-Group-style program that is a great way to make some connections and deepen your relationships with others as you engage some guided readings and discussion questions together.

This 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 be finishing up our series with our final session on June 9 at 7 pm. Couldn't make it this spring? Join us again next year. RSVP to email: **Adult-RE** or join us on zoom as you can.

Call for Volunteers

We want YOU to join us as teachers, advisors, and facilitators in our religious education programs for children, youth, and adults. Each of you have unique gifts and perspectives that are powerful ways to engage in real relationships as teachers and co-learners in RE. You do not have to have children in our programs, nor do you have to have teaching experience — all you have to do is to be willing to bring who you are into the classroom and think about all the big and little things in life.



This fall we have a variety of classes including: Spirit Play, Creation Myths, Neighboring Faiths, Our Whole Lives, High School Youth Group, Adult World Religions studies, and more. Stay tuned to **Connections** for more information or reach out to email: **DLFD** to volunteer.

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 **Adult-RE** or join us for any session.

Unitarian Universalists and our Relationship to the Bible

Many of us as Unitarian Universalists have come into this faith from Christian backgrounds, which we have left behind because there was something more we needed in our spirituality/religion, or we experienced a disconnect or trauma with Christianity. Because of this, many of us find it harder to engage and learn about the Bible and Christianity than other world religions.

That is why we are offering a presentation and discussion on June 21 at 7 pm as an opportunity to begin a conversation about the Bible and Christianity and how we can engage them as UUs in our liberal religion. We hope to offer some alternate approaches and understandings to help us approach this faith and its practitioners. See **Connections** for more information and RSVP to email: **Adult-RE**.

Christ for Unitarian Universalists

Join us this July as we read together some selections from the book, *Christ for Unitarian Universalists* by Scotty McLennan. Many of us have come from Christian backgrounds, and we all live in a predominately Christian society, and this book offers some insights in how to think and recapture who Christ is and what he can offer us as Unitarian Universalists for our liberal religion.

This will be a four-part series for the four weeks of July, but each chapter should be able to stand alone so you would be welcome to join us as you can.

Books can be purchased online, and there will be a few copies to lend out from UCWC. Watch **Connections** for the dates and RSVP to email: **Adult-RE** for more information.

Ice Cream Socials

You’re invited to join our Ice Cream Socials this summer. This is a great way for our children, youth, families, and everyone in our congregation to see one another and enjoy some casual fun together.

These will be outdoor events and will be scheduled tentatively to be confirmed once our health guidelines can be safely met. Please see **Connections** for more details and to save the date.



Pastoral Care

The **Pastoral Care Team** contact for this month is **Eleahn Kahn**.



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.

Most of our classes, meetings and other smaller events have moved to this platform. For easy instructions, click [here](#).

Men's Group

The Tuesday evening men's group will meet on June 1 at 7 pm via Zoom. There will be various topics presented in the format of a "Two-minute TED Talk". The Zoom link will be sent out directly via email.

All men are welcome. 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](#).



Annual Meeting June 6

Our annual meeting of the UCWC membership will be held Sunday June 6 after the service, starting at 11 a.m. via Zoom. The main items of business will be:

- Approve the minutes of last year's meeting. For a copy contact email: [president](#).
- Approve the proposed statement of UCWC's mission. See right.
- Review and approve an annual budget. For a detailed copy contact email: [finance](#).
- Vote on nominees for board and the nominating committee. Three board seats need to be filled, along with the positions of board president and vice-president.
 - Board (five seats):
Matt Zencey, president (2-year term)
Teri Lesser, vice president (1-year term)
Kora Stahl and Bob Stein (2-year terms)
Paul Heck (1-year term)
 - Nominating Committee (two seats):
Marie Steel
Hugh Sutherland

All board nominees except Bob Stein are currently serving on the board. Teri and Paul are swapping roles. Sheila Grant is moving off – we thank her for a great two years of service on the board.

Proposed Mission Statement

Our mission is to:

Grow in spirit, heart, and mind

Love through care and community

Serve beyond ourselves

UU Q&A...?

Sunday, June 13, 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.



Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

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

Black Lives Matter

On Sunday, June 20, at 7 pm the Racial Justice Discussion Group will host a video presentation and discussion of Connie Simon's sermon at the Evanston Unitarian Church, **"The Danger of a Single Story"** which focuses on the history of people of color in the UU movement.

Jubilee 3 Anti-Racism Training will be offered virtually from Friday, June 11 to Sunday, June 13. The training includes presentations,

discussions, videos, exercises, and small group work. This 2½ day workshop is open to anyone who wants to journey toward making a stand against racism. Members and leaders of any faith, as well as non-members, are all welcome. For complete information, click [here](#).

Our next committee meeting is Wednesday, June 16, at 3 pm. All are welcome to attend. Contact email: [black-lives-matter](#).

UUSC Update

The Burmese military's illegal coup – led by the same general who orchestrated the 2017 genocide against the Rohingya – has been met with a nationwide Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM). The military has responded with indiscriminate brutality, killing over 700 people since February 1, including many children and young people.



Several elected leaders have come together to create a parallel government composed of the Committee Representing the National Parliament (CRPH) and the National Unity Government (NUG).

Action Item

Click [here](#) to support the **Honduras Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Act of 2021**.

As the NUG works to develop a more inclusive and credible democratic governance framework, UUSC is committed to supporting and amplifying the voices of ethnic minorities, particularly the Rohingya, to ensure that those who have long been denied their rights

and faced brutality for decades are not left out of the emerging multi-ethnic democratic movement.

In addition to our flexible support for organizations working on human rights advocacy and awareness raising during this political crisis, we are also supporting the CDM with emergency grants that have funded physical relocation of activists, communications security, and livelihood support.

The **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee** (UUSC) works for human rights around the world by supporting grassroots organizations that share our values. Your donations make this work possible. [Please renew your membership or join today](#). Any donation makes you a member.

Thank you.

— **Charlot Barker and
Linda Sander**

UCWC



CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM Team

Upcoming Events

All Are Welcome

Prison Reform in Pennsylvania: Focus on Solitary Confinement.

Presentation and discussion with David Garlock, statewide field organizer with Straight-Ahead, a Pennsylvania activist prison reform organization. Monday June 21, 7:30 pm.

Team Meeting and Book Discussion: Building a Movement to End the New

Jim Crow. Continued discussion of and action planning based on Daniel Hunter's book. Wednesday June 30, 4:30 pm.

If you cannot find the Zoom links for these programs on the UCWC website, contact Robin Garrett at email: [criminal-justice](#).

Two Ways to Support the West Chester Food Cupboard This Month

Share-the-Plate Generosity

The Social Justice Committee's **Share-the-Plate program** raises money to give to local non-profit organizations working to improve life for Chester County residents. We are pleased to announce the share-the-plate recipient for June 20 (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. This 100% volunteer organization serves over 600 households every month. They continue to operate safely through the COVID-19 crisis.

Please note the following as you prepare your donation:

- All checks should be payable to "UCWC".
- Checks with memo "All to charity" or similar go to the charity. Clearest is "All to The Food Cupboard".
- Checks with memo "plate", "donation", "STP", or "share the plate" are split 50/50. Clearest is "STP 50/50".
- All other checks go 100% to UCWC, unless otherwise indicated.

Thank you for your generosity to April recipient, The Melton Center, in the amount of \$335.



Monthly Food Collection

During social distancing, we are not collecting food each month. However, you can still make a financial donation. 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:

UCWC
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.

UUJusticePA

This spring, UUJusticePA introduced an **updated website** (with a new logo) that is full of great information, delivered in a very inviting format. UUJusticePA works to lobby for social justice causes that promote UU values. The six justice teams are:

- Economic Justice
- Environmental Justice
- Reproductive Justice
- Good Government
- Gun Violence Prevention
- Criminal Justice Reform

Please check out the new website at [UUJusticePA.org](#). We also invite your financial support with a yearly contribution of only \$45 to support the work. To become a member, click [here](#).



Gun Violence Prevention

The **UUJusticePA Gun Violence Prevention Team** is concentrating its efforts on working with the Common Agenda Coalition to lobby Senator Pat Toomey on two important issues:

- **Universal Background Checks (S529).** Around 90% of his constituents support this bill. Senator Toomey sponsored a limited expanded background check bill after Sandy Hook and has often talked of the need to improve background checks.
- **Confirmation of David Chipman for ATF Director.** President Biden has nominated a highly qualified person to lead the ATF, which has not had a director since 2016. After years of being starved of resources, the ATF needs to get back to the enforcement work of overseeing gun stores and cracking down on illegal guns.

Please contact Senator Toomey online ([click here](#)) or by phone (202-224-4254) to ask for his support and his help lobbying his Republican colleagues.

Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

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

**DON'T FORGET THE
ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 6 AFTER THE
SERVICE. 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 [password-
protected page](#). (Access
to that page will be
distributed appropriately.)

Jun 1	Tue	Men's Group. 7:00 pm. See p. 6.
Jun 2	Wed	Adult RE - The Good Place. 7:00 pm. See p. 5. Small Group Facilitators Meeting. 7:00 pm. Zoom.
Jun 6	Sun	First Sunday Food Collection. See p. 8. Religious Education Sunday. See p. 4. Annual Meeting. After the Service. See p. 6. Defenders of Democracy. 7:00 pm.
Jun 7	Mon	Executive Committee. 7:00 pm.
Jun 8	Tue	Program Council Meeting. 7:00 pm.
Jun 9	Wed	Explorations, Adult RE. 7 pm. See p. 4.
Jun 13	Sun	Q&A. 11:00 am. Zoom. See p. 6.
Jun 14	Mon	Religious Services Committee. 7:00 pm.
Jun 15	Tue	Board Meeting. 6:30 pm.
Jun 16	Wed	Black Lives Matter Committee. 3:00 pm. See p. 7. Adult RE - The Good Place. 7:00 pm. See p. 5.
Jun 17	Thu	Religious Education Committee. 4:30 pm.
Jun 20	Sun	Share-the-Plate Sunday. Benefits West Chester Food Cupboard. See p. 8. Racial Equity Discussion Group. 7:00 pm.. See p. 7.
Jun 21	Mon	UUs and Our Relationship to the Bible. 7 pm. See p. 5. Prison Reform in Pennsylvania Event. 7:30 pm. See p. 7.
Jun 30	Wed	Criminal Justice Reform Team. 4:30 pm. See p. 7.

EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:

Tuesdays	Women's Kaffeeklatsch. 9:00 am.
Most Thursdays	Spirit Singers Practice. at 7:15 pm. For specific dates, contact Miriam Davidson, email: choir .
Fridays	Women's Corona Cocktail Party. 7:00-8:30 pm.
Saturdays	Open Zoom Session. 7:00 pm.
Various Dates	Small Group Ministry (Several Active Groups). See web calendar or contact email: SGM . See p. 3.



The Fellowtarian is the monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

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