

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

July 2021

From the President

Summer is a quieter time around UCWC, but before we all started enjoying the hotter weather and Pennsylvania's looser pandemic restrictions, we put our Fifth Principle to work and held our annual meeting. For the second year in a row, our exercise in the democratic process was conducted by Zoom. It was a bit of a challenge to establish a quorum – it was a nice day outside and Zoom fatigue is real – but we managed. Thanks to all who attended!



In the first business item, you unanimously approved our mission statement, which had been presented at a Town Hall in March. It's a wonderful, short, memorable statement of what we at UCWC aspire to do and be:

**"Our mission is to:
GROW in spirit, heart and mind
LOVE through care and community
SERVE beyond ourselves."**

You also unanimously approved the annual budget, which had been presented at a Town Hall in May. This spending plan will allow us to reopen in the fall at normal staffing levels (assuming current positive trends in the pandemic continue). Now that inflation has returned, the budget includes a cost-of-living increase for staff. Thanks to your amazing financial generosity, federal COVID relief funds and lower expenses during virtual operations, this year produced a surplus that will enable us to sustain our traditional levels of service to our members and the community in 2021-22.

Finally, you elected board members and filled two nominating committee slots. The following positions were filled by unanimous vote:

President: Matt Zencey (two-year term)

Vice-President: Teri Lesser (one-year term)

Board Members: Kora Stahl and Bob Stein, two-year terms and Paul Heck one-year term.

Nominating Committee: Marie Steel and Hugh Sutherland.

Rev. Dan is on a two-month sabbatical but in his absence, planning continues for resuming in-person services on September 12. Once we resume, we plan to provide live streaming of all services for those who cannot, or prefer not, to attend in person. Stay tuned for details – plans will be fluid and may change depending on what's happening with the pandemic in early September. Your congregational leadership appreciates your patience and support as we observe the measures needed to ensure all of our members are protected as much as possible during the pandemic.

NOTE: Rev. Dan is on sabbatical through August 20. To read about summer contacts while he is away, go to page 4.

Our Mission

Our mission is to:

*GROW in spirit, heart
and mind*

*LOVE through care
and community*

*SERVE beyond
ourselves*



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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.

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

July 4 10 am UNTIL LOVE WINS UUA Service

UUA President, Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick Gray, selected the First Universalist Church of Minneapolis to serve as worship leaders for this year's GA Sunday Morning Service. First Universalist has been a model of shared ministry and what it means to put the work of dismantling white supremacy and building anti-racist, anti-oppressive practices at the center of their ministry. Their leadership exemplifies some of the best practices for the creativity, spiritual depth, and moral leadership that is possible when we embrace the work of shared ministry rooted in love and justice.

Join us as we draw the circle wide, gather our strength, and promise to stay in the struggle and joy until love wins. Click [here](#) for more details.

July 11 10 am WE ARE STILL HERE! Nanticoke Leni-Lenape Tribal Leaders

A Conversation with Nanticoke Leni-Lenape Tribal Leaders. Our building sits on land that was home to the Leni-Lenape people. Yet many of us have learned little about the history of these people and what we can do to support current Tribe members. It is vitally important we hear from people that can speak to this experience, rather than from accounts written by white people, well-meaning or not. UUs across the country are recognizing the need for more awareness of the native people that inhabited the lands where our houses of worship are located.

Join us as we hear from current Leaders of the Nanticoke Leni-Lenape Tribal Nation.

July 18 10 am SEEING ONE THING AND SAYING ANOTHER Rev. Kyle J. Boyer

In this sermon we'll examine the power of our words to effectuate change in the most difficult of circumstances and declare the world we want to see so that we can ultimately see it.

Kyle J. Boyer is an educator, minister, and social justice advocate. He received his spiritual foundation at Mount Carmel Church of God in Christ in West Chester and has served at Mt. Carmel in youth ministry on the local, district, and regional levels. In 2012 he was ordained a church elder. He served several terms as the Vice President of the West Chester Ministerial Alliance and is a member of the Main Line Black Interdenominational Minister's Alliance.

Pastor Boyer has spent a career in education and in 2017 became only the second African American elected to the Tredyffrin/Easttown school board. He is a past president of the West Chester NAACP and the author of *Reflections for the Call: A Devotional for Young Preachers*.

July 25 10 am HINDUISM: CORE BELIEFS AND WAY OF LIFE Raj Nigam

Hinduism rests on the core beliefs of Karma (not what you may think), Dharma (duty), Evaluation (personal accountability), Reincarnation (try again till you succeed), and Divine Spark (unique concept of divinity and what it implies). We will explore how these basic tenets of Hinduism influence morals and ethics (way of life / daily living) and compare them with Unitarian Universalism on a couple of aspects.

Raj Nigam has delivered sermons on varied topics at several UU churches and congregations. He grew up in India and has now been in the US for more than 55 years. He worked in the Applied Mathematics and Statistics area in business, before retiring in 2004. He and his wife Elaine continue to be, and have been, active in The UU Congregation of Princeton, New Jersey for 45+ years, including serving as Presidents of the Congregation.

Lifespan Faith Development



RE Ice Cream Social

Join us on July 21 at 7 pm for our next ice cream social. We will meet this time at the closed-off Gay Street dining areas where there are multiple ice cream options to choose from. Keep an eye on **Connections** for more information.



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.

REflections: Let's Beat the Heat



Summer is here, and it's already in full force. The only thing not fun about the sun can be the heat. But that's okay, because here at UCWC we're bringing the cool.

Check out our awesome opportunities to get involved: Feeling ice-olated? Come hang out with the coolest people around at our fellowship times. Be n-ice and check out our social justice projects. Cool off on a Wednesday evening with a refreshing episode of *The Good Place*. Slip on down and chill out with your friends at our RE ice cream socials. Enjoy our Sundae Services and many events from the air-conditioning of your home via zoom.



Want more opportunities to show how cool you are? Sign up to be a teacher, advisor, facilitator, and/or helper for our Religious Education classes this fall. I scream, you scream, we all scream for Religious Education. Don't get cold feet, I'll break the ice – we've got the coolest children and youth around, so now all we need is you.

I'm your biggest fan. Join us – there s-now time like the present.

– Cassie Lengel, email: **DLFD**.



Christ for Unitarian Universalists

Join us this month on Thursdays (July 1, 8, 15, and 29) 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. 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, 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. RSVP to email: **Adult-RE** for more information.

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, and you do not 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.

Men's Group

The UCWC men's group will meet Tuesday, July 6, at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Paul will lead a discussion about "Who am I now?". 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.

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!

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, July 11, 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.*



Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Team contact for this month is **Carolyn LaTulip**.



Summer Contacts

Rev. Dan will be 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.

Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

New Shelter Needs Donations



A new shelter in Coatesville will serve women who are reuniting with their children after being incarcerated. The project is run by the Friends Association. With "opening day" coming in a little more than a week, they are still short on some needed items. You can sign up to donate item(s) of your choice [here](#). Delivery of donations is to the Friends office in West Chester at 113 W. Chestnut Street.

Criminal Justice Reform

TED Talk Viewing. July 19 at 7:30 pm. A prosecutor's vision for a better justice system, with discussion to follow.

Criminal Justice Team Meeting. July 28 at 4:30 pm. All members and friends of UCWC are welcomed to attend.

If you cannot attend at these times and want to learn more about how you can help advance the cause of criminal justice reform, contact Robin Garrett at email: criminal-justice.

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 July 18 (third Sunday of the month), **Unite for Her**.

Unite for Her is a local organization whose mission is to enrich the health and well-being of those diagnosed with breast and ovarian cancers by funding and delivering integrative therapies. They help to bridge the gap between debilitating but necessary medical treatment and complementary therapies such as acupuncture, massage, nutrition, yoga, and counseling, which are proven to have a positive impact on recovery, health, and wellness.



- All checks should be payable to "UCWC".
- Checks with memo "All to charity" go to the charity. Clearest is "All to Unite for Her".
- Checks with memo "plate", "donation", 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 the May recipient, Friends Association, in the amount of \$695.

UUSC Update

June 20 was World Refugee Day. **The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)** has built a network of grassroots organizations around the globe who are working with families in migration to obtain asylum and assist with resettlement. Here are a few ways our partners are making a difference in people's lives.

Mexico: Scalabrinianas Misión con Migrantes y Refugiados (SMR) welcomes people in migration to its shelter and responds to their immediate needs. In addition to a place to stay, clothing, and food, SMR provides legal assistance and job placement for those navigating their way through the difficulties of the asylum process.

Burma: Following widespread violence and massacres in 2017, many Rohingya people fled the country while others were forcibly displaced to the Thailand-Burma border. Beyond food and shelter in neighboring refugee camps, **UUSC's work** focuses on education, social development, and Rohingya-led advocacy abroad.

United States: UUSC supports the **Communities Not Cages** campaign. Through grant funding, mobilization of our members, and partnering with UU congregations, we aim to stop immigration detention and provide community-based alternatives. The goal is to shut down ten unjust and abusive detention facilities during the Biden administration's first year. Two facilities have already ended their contracts with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for holding families while their asylum claims are being processed.

Your donations make this work possible. Please donate [here](#) today. Thank you.

— Charlot Barker and Linda Sander

Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

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



Don't forget the
RE Ice Cream Social.

- Jul 1 Thu Christ for UUs. See p. 3.
- Jul 4 Sun First Sunday Food Collection. See p. 4.
- Jul 6 Tue Men's Group. 7:00 pm. See p. 4.
- Jul 7 Sun Adult RE - Ethical Discussion Group Based on *The Good Place*. 7:00 pm. See p. 3.
- Jul 8 Thu Christ for UUs. See p. 3.
- Jul 11 Sun Q&A. 11:00 am. Zoom. See p. 4.
- Jul 15 Thu Religious Education Committee. 4:30 pm.
Christ for UUs. See p. 3.
- Jul 18 Sun Share-the-Plate Sunday. United for Her. See p. 5.
Racial Equity Discussion Group. 7:00 pm. "The Danger of a Single Story." Contact email: [black-lives-matter](#).
- Jul 19 Mon Criminal Justice Team TED Talk. 7:30 pm See p. 5.
- Jul 21 Wed Black Lives Matter Committee. 3:00 pm.
Adult RE - Ethical Discussion Group Based on *The Good Place*. 7:00 pm. See p. 3.
RE Ice Cream Social. 7 pm. See p. 3.
- Jul 28 Wed Criminal Justice Reform Team. 4:30 pm. See p. 5.
- Jul 29 Thu Christ for UUs. See p. 3.

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. 4.



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.)



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