

# THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

October 2021

## COVID SERVICES & EVENTS UPDATE

**Services:** For October, we are focusing our efforts on quality outdoor services at The Concept School (1120 E. Street Rd., Westtown), to be held on October 3, 17, and 31 (weather permitting), with special in-person outdoor Religious Education for children on each of those days. These services will be fully masked, and we ask that all eligible people be vaccinated. Come be with your UCWC community! Services on October 10 and 24 will be online. All services, both in person and online, will be livestreamed via YouTube Live.

**Outdoor Events:** We encourage outdoor events of any size. Please wear masks for events involving singing

or children under 12, and please respect the wishes of participants who prefer masks to be worn.

**Indoor Events:** Small and medium sized indoor events may take place in the main floor spaces of the congregation, with masking, ventilation from outdoors and social distancing. We especially encourage use of the sanctuary for this purpose. This includes indoor, in-person religious education events. Please no food at indoor events.

**As Always:** These guidelines are subject to change based on current COVID 19 numbers.



## NOTES FROM REV. DAN

Last Spring we expanded a couple small wildflower beds just behind the house. It was nothing fancy – just some native wildflowers and one or two annuals for extra color in midsummer. As we dug out the beds, we noticed one plant we'd never seen before. My trusty plant-ID app informed me it was called "white snakeroot" (not the most appealing name), that it was poisonous to eat, and that it yielded small white flowers.

Well, we weren't planning on eating it, and lots of plants have unpleasant names (I'm looking at you, Fleabane), so we left it where it was, to see what it would do. For long months it didn't do much other than grow a little – until last week. Then, amidst the showier asters and goldenrods, the first winds of Autumn brought white snakeroot blossoms, lovely sprays of delicate white flowers – just the right accent in just the right place.

Sometimes life throws us more than we can handle – lately we've been juggling an extended pandemic, toxic politics, and weather disasters, along with all the ordinary stressors of our everyday existence. It would be easy, with everything we're dealing with, to close ourselves off from everything unfamiliar, uncertain, or in the way. But life is remarkably even-handed, its gifts every bit as abundant as its hardships. Sometimes the gifts may overwhelm us with joy and change our lives; other times, they may be a simple splash of beauty that reawakens the heart.

The gifts are around us, always. We have only to open ourselves to the giving.

In faith, Dan



## Our Mission

*Our mission is to:*

*GROW in spirit, heart  
and mind*

*LOVE through care  
and community*

*SERVE beyond  
ourselves*



A Welcoming  
Congregation

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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.*

## Pastoral Care

The **Pastoral Care Team** contact for this month is **Sheila Grant.**



## PLEASE NOTE

Services on October 3, 17, and 31 will be outdoors at The Concept School, weather permitting, with all ages invited, and with livestreaming on YouTube for those who cannot attend in person. Services on October 12 and 24 will only be on YouTube.

**Oct 3 10 am**

**BELONGING**

**Rev. Dan Schatz**

*Outdoors at The Concept School*

What does it mean for us to belong to community – and what does it mean for our community to belong to all of us? This special service will feature a ceremony of dedication for young children. If you have a child to be dedicated, please contact Rev. Dan or Cassie Lengel right away. During the service, children will break away for some special RE time.

**Oct 10 10 am**

**MINISTRY TOGETHER**

**Rev. Dan Schatz**

*On YouTube Live*

October 2021 marks the 20th anniversary of Rev. Dan's ordination. He will reflect on the lessons of twenty years in Unitarian Universalist ministry.

**Oct 17 10 am**

**GROW. LOVE. SERVE.**

**Rev. Dan Schatz**

*Outdoors at The Concept School*

In this outdoor service, we will celebrate our congregation's mission. What does it mean to grow, love, and serve together? During the service, children will break away for some special RE time.

**Oct 24 10 am**

**THE QUANDARY OF AGING**

**Brett Goldman**

*On YouTube Live*

**UCWC Member**

Denial, naivete, anger, acceptance, joy – our range of attitudes about aging are endless. Let's take some time to stare this stark reality in the eye, look ourselves in the mirror, and be honest about what all of this truly entails.

**Oct 31 10 am**

**THINNING OF THE VEILS**

**Rev. Dan Schatz and**

*Outdoors at The Concept School*

**Cassie Lengel**

Come in costume for our all-ages outdoor Halloween service. We will honor the ancient roots of Samhain as we celebrate together. Following the service will be a special "Trunk or Treat" – all are invited to decorate their trunks and bring candy or snacks to pass out. (For COVID safety, we ask for pre-packed food only.)

## PLEASE NOTE

Services on October 3, 17, and 31 will be outdoors at The Concept School, weather permitting, with all ages invited, and with livestreaming on YouTube for those who cannot attend in person. Services on October 12 and 24 will only be on YouTube.

## Lifespan Faith Development



We want your help to put on a spooky fun time for our children. On October 31 we will meet for an All-Ages Outdoors Sunday Service celebrating Samhain. You're invited to come to the service in costume to help us recognize the Thinning of the Veils and to celebrate the magical, spiritual side of Halloween. Then, after our service we invite you to display your cars' trunks with fun Halloween décor as our children go trick-or-treating from car to car.

You're invited to bring whatever you'd like to decorate your trunk with, and to pass out pre-packaged candy/goods. Please remember we are still masking, so get creative in how to incorporate that into your costume. And thank you all for helping to make this a fun and safe activity for our families. Please RSVP to email: **DLFD**, so we know how many cars to expect.



## REflections

It's fall y'all! And this has got to be my favorite season of the year. The beautiful colors of the leaves, the sweet tastes of cider and pumpkin spice, the slight crisp of the air, and the promises of another great year together – what more could you ask for?

Well, this year we are getting off to a later start than usual, and we greatly appreciate your patience and flexibility as we navigate changing pandemic and safety needs. In RE we are working to provide our families with quality over quantity, so we hope you will enjoy and find our offerings life giving – and we know we'll want more.

That's why we are also working on a ramp-up back into Religious Education for this year. This fall has thrown us a curve ball, and we're all working to find some balance in this uncertainty. Let our RE events be a touchstone for your families, and let's build this community back into our lives gradually throughout this fall.

We will begin with some outdoors RE time at our services in October, giving us time to reconnect and build relationships as we focus on play and Belonging together. Then in November we hope to introduce indoors RE classes with our World Religions themed curricula.

We look forward to when our children can be fully vaccinated as our next turning point on this ramp up to RE. For now, we ask that our teachers review your clearances and vaccinations, and our parents, please fill out our **registration page** on our website.

And an invitation to all – you're invited to our Halloween Trunk or Treat Party. Whether you want to decorate and hand out goodies or go around to trick or treat for yourself, this will be a great opportunity to get together for something purely silly and spooky fun.

— Cassie Lengel, Email: **DLFD**



## Youth Group and Halloween

Calling all youth! We need your help to make this a spooktacular Halloween Trunk or Treat for the children in our congregation. We want to see you there in your best costumes.

You're invited to decorate your family's cars' trunks and to help pass out pre-packaged candy/snacks, or you could even help to walk smaller kids around to trick or treat. Reach out to email: **RE** if you'd like to help.

## It's Time for RE Registration

Calling all RE families! It's that time of year again. We invite you to fill out the online registration forms for each of your children participating in our RE classes this year. We are working to ramp up to in-person classes, so we want to verify any needs your family may have and to have up-to-date safety information. Thank you.

## Plans for Religious Education for Children through 8th Grade 2021-22

This October, get ready for in person outside RE time. We will meet on the October 3 and 17 outside at The Concept School, where we will begin the service with the congregation and break away in our own space for RE time to talk about Belonging and have fun together.

On October 10 and 24 we will have online services, so we will not meet for RE. OWL classes will begin on Sunday evenings at the congregation on October 10, 17, and 24 and will take a break the eve of the October 31 for Halloween. As the weather turns colder in November, we are looking ahead to find safe ways for us to meet at our congregation for RE classes.



## Information for Religious Education Teachers

Please review the teacher training video sent to your email inboxes to learn more about what our plans are for this 2021-22 RE year. This video will cover expectations, opportunities, safety practices, and our theme of Belonging.

Please also make sure your clearances are up to date and send us a proof of vaccination for all those working with us in person. If you have any questions reach out to email: **DLFD**.

## Adult RE: An Exploration of World Religions

UCWC, you have spoken. In our Adult RE survey last year, there was a significant amount of interest in having some adult RE centered on World Religions. So this year we are offering a monthly session about different religions.

This curriculum is based on Stephen Prothero's book, *God is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run the World*. Each month there will be opportunities to read Prothero's chapters or listen to an episode of a podcast, but you can also come to experience this class without them.

We are excited to explore what these different religions believe and how we engage them as UUs. Please RSVP to email: **Adult-RE** for our first session on October 19 at 7:00 pm, hybrid options tentatively available. And check out *Connections* for a video about Prothero.

## Call for Volunteers

We want YOU...yes, YOU! To join us in teaching RE this year. YOU have what it takes. We've got opportunities for in-person or zoom, fun or curricula-based – we've got it all. Yes, that's right, and there's no need to be jealous – just jump on in and join our great crew of teachers, assistants, facilitators, and helpers.

No experience needed, just open minds and willing hands. Contact email: **DLFD** if you want to learn more.

## The Good Place



## 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. RSVP to email: **Adult-RE**, or join us for any session. We are currently in Season 3. We can lend out the DVDs to help you catch up.



# The Auction Is Here!

## Live Auction Saturday, October 23

Due to the current UUA and CDC guidelines, the live auction will be held on Zoom again this year. That doesn't mean there won't be fun, drama and social time. With Ed Cohle as auctioneer, and our enthusiastic bidding, we can be sure of that.

Tune in at 6:30 pm on the 23rd. The auction will begin at 7 pm. You must be registered in advance to participate ([register here](#)), but you are not required to bid, and registration is free.

We will ask you to change your name to include your paddle number (clear instructions will be provided). The Zoom link will be sent to everyone registered for a paddle — along with instructions for bidding — ahead of time. If you are not available, you may request a proxy bidder by sending a request to email: [auction](#).

## Auction Viewing October 17

Want to see certain things in person before bidding on them? You will have your chance on Sunday, October 17, at the Concept School, weather permitting.

A few tables will be set up outside with any potential crafts, home-sewn items, jewelry, paintings, accessories, tools, furniture, bicycles, and other items offered for you to view after the service.

If it rains, the service will be online, and the auction display will be at UCWC from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. There will be an online silent bidding session 12:30-1:30 pm. (See next page.) Help with online bidding will be available.

If you are donating an item, please bring it to the Concept School on October 17 (or UCWC if it is raining). If that isn't possible, please make other arrangements by contacting Nancy Artus at email: [auction](#).



## Donations Needed

To be sure this year's auction is a success, we need your donations.

The deadline for your donation to be in the catalog is Friday, October 1.\*

**Click [here](#) to donate.**

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\*Late donations will be published in the catalog supplement a few days before the live auction.

## Silent Auction

*The first of five silent auction sessions is Saturday, October 9. See next page for complete details and instructions.*

## You Must Be Registered to Bid

If you have not already received your paddle number, click [HERE](#) to register.



# How the Online Silent Auction Works

## Where to Bid

- Bidding sheets will be on Google Sheets.
- You will NOT need to log into Google to access the sheets.
- Links to the sheets will be sent to all registered bidders in early October.

## When to Bid: Planned Sessions\*

Sat Oct 9..... 11:30 am-12:30 pm  
 Sun Oct 10..... 11:30 am-12:30 pm  
 Sun Oct 17..... 12:30-1:30 pm  
 Wed Oct 20.... 7:30-8:30 pm  
 Fri Oct 22 ..... 7:00-8:30 pm




Once the links are sent out, you can view the items on the bid sheets in advance of the bidding sessions.

\*Any changes will be well-publicized.

## How to Bid

- To bid, you must be registered.
- Everyone who had a paddle number last year is already pre-registered and should have already received an email with this year's NEW paddle number.
- You can register [here](#). You will then be sent a paddle number.
- A day or two before the "bidding season" begins, you will be sent a link to the bidding sheets and instructions on how to bid. (It's easy...see screen shot, below.)
- You will also be sent reminders on each day of bidding.
- If the scheduled bidding sessions do not work for you, you can request a proxy bidder by sending an email to auction with your name, paddle number, the lots you are interested in, and the maximum you are willing to bid for each.

This is what you'll see.

| LOT: 4   |   |     |
|--|---|-----|
| Three Purple Coneflower Plants   |   |     |
| Eastern Purple Coneflower ( <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> ) attracts pollinators and even birds to your garden (Goldfinches love the flower heads!). It is a native perennial that grows 4-5 ft and is drought tolerant. Three plants in approximately 6" pots will be delivered to you in the spring. |   |     |
| FMV: \$15 Min Bid: \$6   |   |     |
| Donated by: Nancy Artus  |   |     |
|   | <a href="#">Click here for full-size image.</a> |     |
| PADDLE   | NAME  | BID |
|  |   |     |
|  |   |     |
|  |   |     |
|  |   |     |
|  |   |     |



### Item Information



### Thumbnail & Link to Image (if Available)



### Enter Your Paddle Number, Name, and Bid Here

## Restrictions

- Bidding will only be possible during the bidding hours.
- Only registered bidders will be sent the link. We prefer that you do not share it with anyone.
- Others can check out the items in the catalog, which will be available to everyone.



## Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

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

### 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!

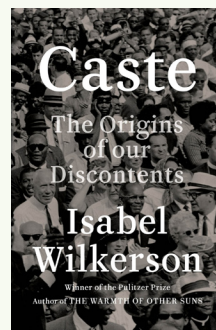
### Diversity Book Group

Sun, Oct 10 7:00–8:30 pm

**Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents** by Isabel Wilkerson

In this deeply researched and masterful narration of the stories of real people, Isabel Wilkerson reveals the hidden caste system in America, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings, which is as immersive as it is unseen. More about power than race, the systemic influence of this unacknowledged phenomenon has shaped our history, social structures, and our present-day society.

**Caste** is an eye-opening re-examination of what lies under the surface of ordinary lives and the American experience. Leaders: Pam Sapko and Roger Bove.



### Black Lives Matter

## Sunday Night Racial Justice Discussions to Resume: The Danger of a Single Story

Beginning on October 17 at 7:00 pm, the Black Lives Matter Committee's Sunday evening Racial Justice Discussions will resume. This month's discussion focus will be Black UU History. We will be introduced to some of this history by watching a twenty-minute sermon by Rev. Connie Simon, "The Danger of a Single Story," after which we will have time to discuss Rev. Simon's sermon.

For the time being, our discussions will be via Zoom. Any questions can be directed to email: [black-lives-matter](#).

Watch for our weekly "Racial Justice Action of the Week" in **Connections**. Ideas for action range

from participating in local vigils related to Racial Justice issues, to resources to further our anti-racist education and understanding — an article to read, a video to watch, or a podcast to listen to, to letters to write in response to state or national legislation, events sponsored by local social or historical groups and so on.

We hope you will be inspired to greater involvement in working to become more anti-racist. If you have ideas for our Racial Justice Action of the Week, please send

them to email: [black-lives-matter](#).



Rev. Connie Simon

## UUSC Update



We see it happen over and over again. In times of worldwide difficulty or hardship, Unitarian Universalists turn to UUSC, an organization we all trust to do what is right. Take a quick look at [UUSC.org](http://UUSC.org), and you can read about immigration, climate change, and access to water. Included in each article are actions being taken.

A quick action you can take, even if you've already donated to UUSC, is to **make a donation now**. That way YOU are taking action, through UUSC's capable hands.

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Thank you for your Haiti earthquake relief donations of \$1,250.

## Small Group Ministry

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 six groups which meet at different times and places – including a new group just getting started which meets on second and fourth Mondays at 2 pm. If you are interested in joining, please write to email: **SGM**.

## UUJusticePA Update Gun Violence Prevention

Suicides account for two-thirds of the gun deaths in this country. The vast majority of successful suicides are committed with a firearm. Here are some policies that work to reduce such suicides:

- **Universal Background Checks.** On private sales as well as at gun stores.
- **Waiting Period.** Three days or more, often enough time for a suicidal person to reconsider.
- **ERPO.** If they already own a firearm, Extreme Risk Protection Orders permit a loved one and the police to petition the court for a temporary loss of gun rights, taking guns away from someone in crisis. Nineteen states have ERPO on the books.

The Pennsylvania House just introduced an ERPO bill, HB 1903. Please check [here](#) to see if your Representative is a cosponsor. If so, call and thank him/her. If not, ask why not.

— Tom Buglio  
UUJusticePA Liaison

### What is UUJusticePA?

Click [here](#) to find out. Please consider supporting our work.



## Men's Group

The Tuesday evening men's group will do things slightly different this time: Weather permitting, we will meet in person on October 5 at 4:00 pm in the parking lot of Struble Trail on Norwood Road in Downingtown. The plan is to hike along the trail together — safe and socially distanced.

Further details will follow 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**.



## Minister's Office Hours

This Fall Dan will again be able to meet in person with congregation members on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday afternoons, either at the congregation or at an outdoor location we arrange.

He can be reached by email at email: **minister**, or on his cell phone at 484-653-5011.



# Calendar

All email addresses  
@ucwc.org

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

**The Live  
Auction Is  
Here!**



 **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.)

|        |     |   |
|--------|-----|---|
| Oct 1  | Fri | Deadline for Auction Donations to Be in the Catalog. See p. 5.  |
| Oct 3  | Sun | First Sunday Food Collection. See p. 7.<br>Defenders of Democracy. 7:00 pm  |
| Oct 4  | Mon | Executive Committee. 7:00 pm.   |
| Oct 5  | Tue | Men's Group. 7:00 pm. See p. 8.   |
| Oct 6  | Wed | Adult RE - The Good Place. 7:00 pm. See p. 4.   |
| Oct 9  | Sat | Silent Auction Session. 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. See p. 6.  |
| Oct 10 | Sun | Silent Auction Session. 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. See p. 6.<br>Diversity Book Group. 7:00 pm. See p. 7.  |
| Oct 17 | Sun | Share-the-Plate Sunday. Benefits <a href="#">Act in Faith</a> .<br>Silent Auction Session. 12:30 - 1:30 pm. See p. 6.<br>Racial Justice Discussion. See p. 7. |
| Oct 19 | Tue | Board Meeting. 6:30 pm.<br>Adult RE: An Exploration of World Religions. See p. 4.   |
| Oct 20 | Wed | Black Lives Matter Committee. 3:00 pm. See p. 7.<br>Adult RE - The Good Place. 7:00 pm. See p. 4.<br>Silent Auction Session. 7:30-8:30 pm. See p. 6.          |
| Oct 21 | Thu | Religious Education Committee. 7:00 pm.   |
| Oct 22 | Fri | Final Silent Auction Session. 7:00 pm. See p. 6.  |
| Oct 23 | Sat | Annual Auction. 7:00 pm. (Zoom starts at 6:30.) See pp. 5-6.  |
| Oct 31 | Sun | RE Halloween Trunk or Treat. After the service. See p. 3.   |

## EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Most Thursdays | Spirit Singers Practice. at 7:15 pm. For specific dates, contact Miriam Davidson, email: <a href="#">choir</a> .                 |
| 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. 8. |



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