

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

March 2022



NOTES FROM REV. DAN

This is the season of getting ready. It's not quite Spring yet, but we can see it coming — and more importantly we can feel it coming in the warmth of the March sunshine, the first few blossoms rising from the muddy earth, and the occasional gentle treat of a day that reminds us a warmer time is just about here. Almost. Sort of.

For some, March is the month for Spring cleaning, for getting the house in order. Parents plan for the next school year; older children choose their classes. Enthusiastic gardeners start on spring beds. (I admire and salute gardeners like this, as I remain comfortably indoors, envious at such noble motivations.)

At UCWC, March is when we begin to plan our budget for the coming year and ask for our members' and friends' support so that it can be a strong one. This year we have some special challenges — rising costs of living for our staff, some families who have moved away, and all the challenges that come with limited in-person attendance on Sundays. At the same time, we have a congregation which has stayed strong through the last two years, a deeply committed staff and lay leadership, positive energy, newcomers on Sunday mornings, and a mission statement that guides us in who we are and what we aspire to as we move forward.

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That mission, "grow in spirit, heart, and mind, love through care and community, serve beyond ourselves," is the theme of our Stewardship Campaign this year, and I can't think of a better one. After all, it's what we're giving towards — everything we spend money on enables us to grow, love, and serve together. We are literally giving to who we are.

I hope you'll take part in the various Stewardship activities over the next several weeks. I'll be focusing services on "Grow," "Love," and "Serve." We'll have the (carryout) chocolate feast on Sunday, March 6. (If you join us online, we will be happy to bring some of that chocolate to your home on Sunday afternoon.) I especially hope you join us on Saturday, March 5, for the online concert from the band Black Moon — livestreamed from the studio, so you know the quality will be excellent.

And of course, I hope you'll give a generous pledge of support, whatever that is, according to your means. Whether you're a long-time member or a new one, you are part of our congregation, and it takes all of us to make our congregation strong. (Also, you get a very cool reusable UCWC tote bag with "Grow, Love, Serve" on it when you make your pledge.)

With all our gifts, we will grow love and serve together.

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

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.

Mar 6 10 am
Schatz

**WHAT DO WE BRING
TO THE FEAST?**

Rev. Dan

This service will celebrate the gifts our congregation and each of us offer as we grow, love, and serve together. There will be special music from The Spirit Singers, as well as our Feast of (Carryout) Decadent Chocolate!

Mar 13 10 am

GROW

Rev. Dan Schatz

Part of our mission is to "Grow in spirit, heart, and mind." What can this mean for us as Unitarian Universalists?

Mar 20 10 am

**THE "L" WORD:
IS LIBERALISM DYING?**

**Rev. Kate Rohde
Minster Emerita**

When the Unitarians merged with the Universalists in the 60's we called ourselves "Liberal Religion" and our Youth Group was called LRY — Liberal Religious Youth. As time went on people began to think that our use of the word 'Liberal' was a political designation, but we adopted the word when we had lots of Republicans in our midst and in our leadership — including national figures. Liberal is also used to designate a certain philosophy that had strong roots in the Enlightenment and informed founding documents such as The Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights.

The root of the word is "libre" free. And our tradition is rooted in that philosophy. The ditching of those liberal principles, indeed the lack of understanding and belief in these principles by people on all sides of current debates, and the failure of people and institutions who once stood up for those values to do so, is a danger to democracy here and around the world. The rise of illiberal thought on Right and Left is here. Where are we?

Mar 27 10 am

LOVE

Rev. Dan Schatz

In our congregation we "love through care and community." Love is a powerful and deeply spiritual concept, and this unique service of music, readings, and original poetry will explore what love means on every level.

Let's Have Some Fun in March

Game Night. Friday, March 4. In-person game night returns at 7 pm Friday evening. Bring a game or learn a new one. A few COVID precautions are still in effect: please wear a mask, and there will be no eating or drinking.

The Feast of the Decadent Chocolate. Sunday, March 6. Bring your favorite chocolate treat (homemade or purchased) wrapped in individual portions and drop it off in the lobby. After the service, pick up some treats to take home with you. See *Connections* for more information or send questions to email: **Fun**.

Feast of (Carry-out) Decadent Chocolate Sunday, March 6

Indulge in chocolate decadence as we celebrate our congregation. For this year's Feast of Decadent Chocolate, we ask that you bring chocolate to share in individual portions — homemade is fine, but please place them in individual wrappings for COVID safety. Fair trade chocolate is strongly encouraged, and we especially welcome allergen-friendly contributions.

We would also like to deliver chocolate to those joining us online. If you are able to help lay out the feast, contact Susan Bachelor at email: **fun**. To help take chocolate to members' homes or to request some chocolate be brought to you on Sunday afternoon, please contact email: **minister**.

Our 2022-2023 Stewardship Campaign Begins



The Stewardship group adopted UCWC's mission as our 2022 theme. Our Stewardship Campaign will launch on Saturday, March 5, at 7 pm with a live Zoom concert featuring Black Moon. Stay tuned for the Zoom link. Don't miss this fun special event.

Then join in on Sunday, March 6, for our Stewardship Sunday service (which will include chocolate) at 10 am. Pledge cards, giving guidelines, and online forms will be available at that time. Everyone is encouraged to make a generous pledge so our congregation can continue to Grow, Love, and Serve. Every household who makes a pledge, of any amount, will receive a UCWC Grow, Love, Serve tote bag. If you have any questions about pledging, please contact us at email: stewardship.

Our Stewardship Campaign will conclude with a picnic at East Goshen Township Park on Sunday, April 24, after the Earth Day service.

A PLEDGE OF ANY SIZE
GETS YOU A SPIFFY
UCWC "GROW, LOVE,
SERVE" TOTE BAG



CLICK POSTER TO LAUNCH
THE BLACK MOON CONCERT
SAT, MAR 5, AT 7 PM



The Stewardship Committee has arranged for a one hour concert that will be broadcast online from a recording studio. This is a family friendly event so your kids are encouraged to watch with you.

MUSIC BY
BLACK MOON

**STEWARDSHIP
FREE MUSIC EVENT**

**MARCH 5, 2022
@7PM**

**ONLINE
SHOW**

JOIN US AT [HTTPS://BIT.LY/UCWCconcert](https://bit.ly/ucwcconcert)
PASSCODE: 526778

Lifespan Faith Development

March Madness in Religious Education

Welcome back to in-person RE classes EVERY week! Children in grades Pre-K through 7th are invited to join us downstairs right off the bat at 10 am on Sunday mornings. We have seen how hard this year has been for our families, children and youth, and our teachers as well, so we're going to take a step back to the basics as we focus on HOW we meet in RE first, and what we learn second.

We're reminding ourselves of fun, creativity, friendship, covenant, and our Unitarian Universalist values as they show up in our everyday lives — and we're exploring this through Disney and Pixar short films. Come on out and have some fun for all ages with us.

Chalice and Chat is still on hold, though any youth 8th grade and older who would like to join us for the short films and crafts are more than welcome. We will continue to meet in our OWL class on Sunday evenings at 7 pm throughout March.

REflections: Religious Education Update

They say that March is the right time to start up seedlings you'd like to plant in your garden. Well, I'd like to say I'm ahead of the curve. Every year on my birthday in January, I love to go looking for the first offerings in stores of seeds and succulents, so I can move through the winter with a little green reminder of the hope of spring. So, I've already started and killed my seeds — twice!

But in all seriousness, this time of year makes me contemplate what seeds we're sowing in life right now. I know I'm tired of winter, so I tend to find March to be a month to get through as quickly as possible. After all, we're trying to speed towards the end of the school year, warmer weather, vacation, and maybe even the end of the pandemic.

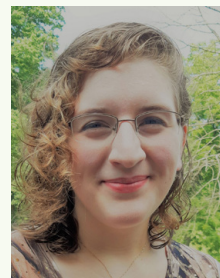
But are those the seeds we want to sow in our lives? When we're so focused on hurrying, accomplishing, and anxiously trying to plan and control the future, we miss the gift that is right now.

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What seeds can we plant to nurture our connection with today? Perhaps seeds of compassion and mindfulness, or rest and play.

Just as we're working to sow good seeds in our personal lives, we are preparing our congregation for the growth ahead. We're coming back home to our sanctuary in hybrid services. We're celebrating our mission statement through our stewardship campaign. We're back to meeting every week for RE classes with children. The many opportunities for adults to learn in RE, work in social justice, help in hospitality and committees, and welcome new faces show us that the warmth of spring at UCWC will return just as we have hoped for.

I wonder how we'll bloom?



— Cassie Lengel
DLFD@ucwc.org

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

Come one, come all, whether you're new to Unitarian Universalism or you've been with us for years, join "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 us together as we delve into our common faith and our individual experiences. Let's **grow** together our spiritual practices and make new friends. We will be guided through Explorations by our very own Jen Feld and Teri Lesser beginning on March 17 and then every other Thursday at 7 pm via Zoom. Please RSVP to email: DLFD.

Are You Thinking About Membership?

If you are new to our congregation or have been around for a while and are considering membership, Rev. Dan would love to connect with you. He can be reached at email: **minister**. In addition, please look for these programs coming up in March and April. For Zoom links, go to ucwc.org/zoom.

Explorations: Alternate Thursdays, beginning March 17 at 7 pm. Explorations is an opportunity for newcomers and longtime UUs to come together and talk about Unitarian Universalism, our own lives, our beliefs, and our spiritual practices. This five-session, small group ministry based program will meet every two weeks in March and April. Topics covered include The UU Principles, Our Beliefs, and more. Contact email: **DLFD** to RSVP or learn more.

Path to Membership: Sunday, March 27, at 1-3 pm. This single session class is a great way to learn more about our congregation and what membership is all about. Contact email: **minister** to RSVP and for more information.

Unitarian Universalist History and Theologies: Tuesday, April 5, at 7 pm. This evening with Rev. Dan gives a broad overview of our history, theologies, and stories. For more information write to email: **minister**.

Remember, even if you are unable to attend these programs, you can always reach out to Rev. Dan for a conversation about membership.

Nominating Committee

It's that time of year when nominating committee members start looking for a few good people. We've been planning to stay up nights, plotting, and then making our calls at dawn, reasoning that your defenses will be down at the time.

But we've been talked out of that one – so plan "B" is to give members a gentle heads-up. This is it.

A point in the bylaws seems pertinent: Adult members have the right to be eligible for election as trustee, officer, or serve as committee chair. Which means YOU, an adult member, have the right. You are essentially an owner of UCWC. So don't, for any reason, think you can't serve.

I can tell you from personal experience that serving on the Board is rewarding. You may have ideas you would like to advance and there is no better place. The Board needs varied viewpoints.

Please give a little thought to serving in any of the positions listed; that way you won't be surprised if we call you. We also take suggestions if you know of anyone who might just like to be called.

Contact us at email: **nominating**.

— Hugh Sutherland for the Nominating Committee

Adult RE: An Exploration of World Religions

This year we will meet each month to explore a different religion and how we engage them as UUs. This curriculum is based on Stephen Prothero's book, *God is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run the World*, and the podcast "Interfaith Voices."

Please RSVP to email: **Adult-RE** for our next session as we continue learning about Hinduism on March 15 at 7 pm, via Zoom.



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.

If you are interested in joining a group, please contact email: **SGM**.



Pastoral Care

The **Pastoral Care Team** contact for this month is **Fatima Patel**.



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 Bullaughay, email: [grocery-program](#), for more information.

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



West Chester Area Refugee Resettlement Project Announcement

On February 22 Simon Peter, an asylum seeker from Uganda arrived in West Chester. Deb Wood is hosting him in her home in West Chester. She expects she will be hosting Simon Peter for about a year as he awaits the outcome of his asylum petition. He speaks excellent English.

West Chester Area Refugee Project (WCARRP) volunteers are helping with transportation, orientation to the community, grocery shopping and food preparation, and financial assistance.

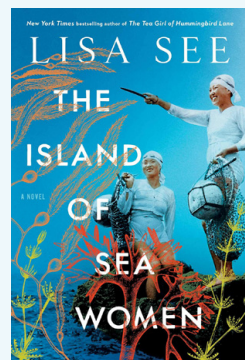
If you would like to help, please contact Susan Brodesser, WCARRP chair, at be_still@verizon.net. Also, please let Linda Sander, UCWC Social Justice Chair, know if you join the effort. Email: [social-justice](#).

Background: The WCARRP is comprised of people from local congregations and the community who are willing to help refugees and asylum seekers. Our congregation members were strong supporters of their last project in 2016-18, when we helped a family of seven who had fled the Congo Republic. A couple of UCWC members attended the meeting in May where it was agreed to support Deb Wood in her plans to sponsor asylum seekers in her home.

Diversity Book Group Sun, Mar 13 7:00-8:30 Zoom Leader: Pat Bove The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See

In a world turned upside down on the Korean island of Jeju, where the women are in charge and the men take care of the children, two girls from very different backgrounds grow up best of friends, oblivious to the differences between them. When they're old enough to go to work in the village's all female diving collective, their differences can no longer be ignored.

Over many decades — through the Japanese colonialism of the 1930s and 1940s, World War II, the Korean War, and through the era of cellphones and wet suits for the women divers — Mi-ja and Young-sook know that forces beyond their control will push their friendship to the breaking point.



Jubilee Anti-Racism Training

Fri, Apr 1 at 6:00 pm - Sun, Apr 3 at 6:30 pm



You are invited to participate in Jubilee Three Anti-Racism online training: "Learning Together About Systemic Racism." At least seven members of UCWC have participated in Jubilee sessions, and they heartily recommend this training for members and friends of UCWC.

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.

Goals are:

- Develop a shared analysis of racism and its individual, institutional, and cultural manifestations
- Begin to apply this common understanding to the history, culture, and institutional structure of our society
- Envision the next steps in taking action

Topics Include:

- The history of racism and resistance to racism in the Americas
- Defining racism
- The effects of racism on people of color and on white people
- Dismantling racism
- Claiming and shaping an anti-racist identity

Trainers are Paula Cole Jones, Dr. Leon Spencer, and Lutricia Callair. Sponsor is Central East Region of the UUA.

Enrollment is limited to 70 participants. Registration deadline is March 27. Register [here](#). For more information contact Paula Cole Jones at pcolejones@gmail.com.

If you would like scholarship support, please contact email: [black-lives-matter](#).

UUSC Update

In Burma, where UUSC has been working for 25 years focusing on people who have been under brutal attack for decades because of their status as religious or ethnic minorities, UUSC has been able to provide direct grassroots support for pro-democracy activists participating in the anti-coup movement.

In low lying areas in Louisiana, Alaska, and Pacific Islands, communities have been confronting climate challenges, and UUSC is helping by funding grass roots solutions.

UUSC believes that migration is a human right. Their partners' efforts center on the inherent rights of people, not invented borders.

See UUSC's 2021 Annual Report [here](#).



Coming Tue, Apr 26 from 8 am to 3 pm

Gun Violence Prevention Advocacy Day

UUJusticePA Gun Violence Prevention is teaming up with CeaseFirePA to advocate in Harrisburg with our State Representatives for Common Sense Gun Safety measures. Join us on zoom or in person to advocate with your representatives for bills that support the Common Agenda for Gun Violence. Details in the April *Fellowtarian* or contact email: [gun-safety](#).

Join us on zoom for our two UUJusticeGVP meetings leading up to Advocacy Day: Tuesday, March 15, and Tuesday, April 19, for our normal monthly meetings concerning Gun Violence Prevention news and updates: <https://zoom.us/j/7132347624>

— Tom Buglio, UUJusticePA and Gun Violence Prevention Liaison



Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

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

Men's Group

On Tuesday, March 1, Ed Cohle, Rob Sartain, and Dirk Troltenier will lead a discussion around the question "What legacy do you want to leave behind?" 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 and Dirk at email: [mens-group](#).

Annual Women's Retreat Returns April 8-10

Join us for some laughter, connection, and renewal at the Temenos Retreat house. We will arrive Friday, April 8, for dinner and spend the weekend together, leaving Sunday by noon. Rates will depend on single vs. double occupancy or commuter, if you prefer to sleep in your own bed.

Contact Janine Galen at email: [womens-retreat](#) to reserve your spot and/or share ideas with the planning team.

Minister's Office Hours

Rev. Dan is available for appointments on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. He can be reached at email: [minister](#) or by cell phone.

Mar 1	Tue	Criminal Justice Reform Team. 4:30 pm.. Men's Group. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See left.
Mar 2	Wed	Small Group Facilitators Meeting. 7:00 am.
Mar 4	Fri	Family & Friends Game Night. 7:00 pm. Sanctuary. See p. 2.
Mar 5	Sat	Stewardship Campaign Kick-off Concert. 7 pm. See p. 3.
Mar 6	Sun	Stewardship Campaign Begins. See p. 3. First Sunday Food Collection. See p. 6. Feast of Decadent Chocolate. After the service. See p. 2.
Mar 7	Mon	Executive Team. 7:00 pm. Email: executive-team .
Mar 8	Tue	Program Council. 7:00 pm.
Mar 13	Sun	Diversity Book Group. 7:00-8:30 pm. See p. 6.
Mar 14	Mon	Religious Services Committee. 6:30 pm.
Mar 15	Tue	Adult RE Committee. 4:30 pm. Email: adult-re . Gun Violence Prevention. See p. 7. Board Meeting. 6:30 pm. All are welcome. Adult RE: An Exploration of World Religions. 7:00 pm. See p. 5.
Mar 16	Wed	Black Lives Matter Committee. 3:00 pm. Contact Sandra Schaal, email: black-lives-matter
Mar 17	Thu	Religious Education Committee. 7:00 pm. Adult RE: Explorations. 7 pm. See p. 5.
Mar 20	Sun	Share-the-Plate Sunday. Benefits Melton Center
Mar 22	Tue	Committee on Ministry. 6:30 pm. Email: COM .
Mar 27	Tue	Deadline to Register for Jubilee Anti-Racism Training. See p. 7. Path to Membership. 1:00-3:00 pm. See p. 5.
Mar 31	Thu	Adult RE: Explorations. 7 pm. See p. 5.

EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:

Most Thursdays	Spirit Singers Practice. at 7:00 pm. For specific dates, contact Miriam Davidson, email: choir .
Various Dates	Small Group Ministry (Several Active Groups). See web calendar or contact email: SGM .

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

501 South High Street
West Chester, PA 19382

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