

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

April 2022



NOTES FROM REV. DAN

My great-grandparents fled Ukraine over a hundred years ago, running from war and the antisemitic pogroms coordinated by the Czarist rulers of Russia. It was a time of violence and fear, and as I watch the news every night – like many of us I’m seldom able to tear myself away – I find myself thinking about Sarah Shevelenko and George Schatz, afraid and running from destruction and senseless hatred, two small children in tow. Seeing refugee families leave Ukraine with their children this month has felt like looking into the faces of my ancestors.

I’m not alone in this kind of connection. Between the pogroms, the Holocaust, and Stalin’s purges, millions of Jews and others left Ukraine over the past century – just as today many of those who had remained are now fleeing Vladimir Putin’s bombs.

See
page 7
to learn
how
you can
help.

and so many other places.

Their descendants are our neighbors and family members. We are connected to them, just as we are connected with refugees from Afghanistan, Syria, Myanmar, Uganda, Guatemala, Haiti,

This month Jews celebrate the festival of Passover, the story of a group of refugees fleeing across the desert to escape slavery. The Passover Seder emphasizes our responsibility to offer shelter to those who are in need and oppressed. It is not enough to gain our own freedom; Passover calls us to common cause with all people victimized by violence, oppression, and injustice. Our Unitarian Universalist principles ask no less.

As part of our service on April 10, we will take up a special collection to help the Unitarian Providence Charity Organization of the Hungarian Unitarian Church, as they meet the needs of refugees coming over the border from Ukraine. It’s not the only way to support the refugees of the world, but it’s one thing we can do, in this time and place, to live our values and embody the spirit of welcome.

The war in Ukraine feels at once very close and very distant; so many of us have watched the destruction with a feeling of helplessness. But as long as there are people in need, whether from Ukraine or any of the other wars and genocides across the world, we are not helpless.

We can reach out in welcome. We can insist the same of our nation. And in the spirit of our Unitarian Universalist faith, we can begin by creating loving community here and throughout the world.

In faith, Dan

*As long as there
are people in need,
whether from
Ukraine or any of
the other wars and
genocides across
the world, we are not
helpless.*

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.

Apr 3 10 am

THE POETRY SERVICE

Sarah Hyson

The Poetry Service is here! Members and friends will share some of their favorite poems – things that we've written, old favorites, and recent discoveries.

*Some poems will rhyme, and some are free verse,
Come to UCWC; you could do worse!*

Apr 10 10 am

SERVE

Rev. Dan Schatz

Our mission statement calls us to "serve beyond ourselves." What can that mean for us as individuals and a spiritual community? In addition to our regular offertory, this service will include a special collection to support Ukrainian refugees through the Providence Charity Organization of the Hungarian Unitarian Church.

Apr 17 10 am

LIFE AGAIN

Rev. Dan Schatz

Easter is a celebration of renewal, rebirth, and spiritual resurrection. In each of our lives, there are times when we are in need and find new life.

Apr 24 10 am

INTO THE EARTH

**Rev. Dan Schatz
and Cassie Lengel**

At East Goshen Park

We honor Earth Day with a special outdoor all-ages service at Veteran's Pavilion in East Goshen park. As the Earth nourishes the roots of trees and other plants, so too can we look for spiritual nourishment from the beautiful dark earth. Weather permitting, this service will be held at the Veterans Pavilion at East Goshen Park, and will be followed by a Stewardship picnic, with sandwiches provided. (Please note that the Veteran's Pavilion is not where we have held picnics in the past but is further into the park. See map, p. 6)

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](mailto:minister@ucwc.org). In addition, please look for these programs coming up in March and April. For Zoom links, go to ucwc.org/zoom.

Explorations: Alternate Thursdays 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 spiritual practices. This small-group-ministry-based program meets every two weeks in March and April. Topics covered include The UU Principles, Our Beliefs, and more. Contact email: [DLFD](mailto:DLFD@ucwc.org) to RSVP or learn more. Upcoming



gatherings are on March 31, April 14, April 28, and May 12.

Path to Membership: Sunday, March 27 from 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](mailto:minister@ucwc.org) 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](mailto:minister@ucwc.org).

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

From the President

How should we at UCWC live our anti-racist values? That's a question we at UCWC will be asked to consider in the coming months.



A group of our members is looking to put new energy into the anti-racism commitments UCWC made in 2019. Back then, your board, speaking on behalf of the congregation as provided by our bylaws, issued a statement acknowledging that "racism has been part of American society since its founding" and that it continues to cause huge "racial disparities in housing, education, health care, the labor market, politics and criminal and environmental justice." We agreed that we at UCWC need to seek to "better understand issues related to racism and white advantage" and to work to "alleviate racial inequities in our country," which includes examining how we do things at UCWC.

Renewing our pursuit of those commitments fit squarely within our mission: Grow. Love. Serve.

We will grow as we examine what's in our own hearts and improve our understanding of our nation and our denomination's history, both the good and the bad. An honest inquiry will show that we all hold some degree of implicit bias and that many of us have benefitted from systems that have held others back.

We will be called to show our love for each other as we deal with what are often emotionally charged and controversial matters. Specific topics are likely to include whether UCWC should endorse adding an Eighth UU Principle, which would commit UU congregations to "accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions." We will need to speak constructively and listen respectfully, as our Covenant of Right Relations commits us to do.

We will serve when we decide that the struggle against racism calls us to do more than just brighten our own inner lights and clean up our own UCWC house. Important changes are needed to our country's laws and our social and economic institutions. What will we do to help make them happen? (Some members are already working on prison reform, voting rights, and equitable funding for public schools).

The coming conversations on racism will be both a valuable and a challenging experience. At times, we may feel uncomfortable. But I'm confident we can proceed in a loving, respectful way that honors all our UU values.

— Matt

The coming conversations on racism will be both a valuable and a challenging experience. At times, we may feel uncomfortable. But I'm confident we can proceed in a loving, respectful way that honors all our UU values.

Minister's Office Hours

Rev. Dan's office hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays by appointment. He can be reached at email: [minister](mailto:minister@ucwc.org) or by cell phone.

Ask the Minister Service

Over the next several weeks, Dan will take questions for an "Ask the Minister" service in May. Questions can be on theology, congregational life, Unitarian Universalism, world religions, or other topics you'd like to hear about, and Dan will weave the service around the questions received.

You can email questions to Dan (minister@ucwc.org) or write them on a card and put them in the question box in the lobby. All questions will be read anonymously, though it is helpful to leave your name so Dan can contact you for clarification.



Lifespan Faith Development

It is time for us to soak up all this community as it fills our cups so we can, once again, grow and pour our energy into all that is lifegiving and purposeful.

What's Happening in Religious Education?

Welcome back to in-person RE classes EVERY week! Children in grades PreK through seventh 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 who would like to join us for shorts and crafts are more than welcome. We will continue to meet in our OWL class on Sunday evenings at 7 pm.

REflections

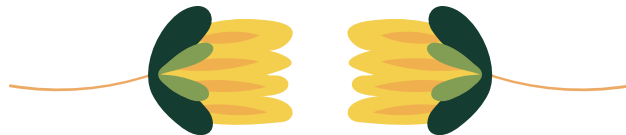
Religious Education Update

We've all heard the phrase that April showers bring May flowers, and right now that's the only thing giving me any patience with these overcast days. I want to be that giant sunflower, stretching and leaning into the warm sunshine, but what do sunflowers do when it rains? They soak up the water and nutrients to give them energy to grow. That is exactly what UCWC is doing this April — we are soaking in the community and togetherness as we prepare to grow again.

Finally we are back to hybrid services, able to see one another again, offer new opportunities to connect as we play and laugh and grieve and comfort and even sing again. It is time for us to soak up all this community as it fills our cups so we can, once again, grow and pour our energy into all that is lifegiving and purposeful.

We are already seeing new sprouts as we welcome new faces and reconnect with familiar ones. As we strengthen these roots, we know we will bloom with robust care for one another, abundant spiritual services, curious wonder in our classes, strong support for justice, and so much more. But every bloom needs those nutrients, so what will we offer one another this April? How will we connect and open ourselves up to community? What does our spiritual home add in our lives?

— Cassie Lengel
Email: DLFD



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 on March 31, April 14, April 28, and May 12 at 7 pm via Zoom. Please RSVP to DLFD.

Pastoral Care

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



Men's Group

On Tuesday, April 5, Ed, Gerry, Paul and Dirk will lead a discussion around the question "What life lessons did we learn?" 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**.



UU History and Theologies Tuesday, April 5



What's the difference between a Unitarian and a Universalist? Who were the Socinians? What does Count Dracula have in common with the Unitarianism? Who was Pete Seeger's favorite circuit riding Universalist preacher? What does it mean to be a religious liberal? Could it be that UUs actually have a theological tradition of our own?

We'll cover this and more in Rev. Dan Schatz's Zoom class on Unitarian Universalist History and Theologies on Tuesday, April 5 from 7-9 pm. There will be stories, slides, new perspectives, and some mind blowing theology. Bring your questions, and invite a friend if you know someone who is interested in learning more about our "Faith of the Free."

The class is open to all — newcomers as well as those who would like to grow in their understanding of Unitarian Universalism. "Walk-ins" are welcome, but it is extra helpful to RSVP in advance to minister@ucwc.org.

Green Burial and End of Life Planning April 20 at 7 pm

Have you ever wondered about what kind of support you can get at end of life? Wanted to learn more about green burial? Now, you can get all those questions answered.

In this session we will cover a wide range of deathcare topics, from death doulas to donating your body to science to alternative disposition methods like alkaline hydrolysis (or aquamation) and natural organic reduction (or body composting). We will focus on the importance of having a plan and initiating these conversations with the people in your life who may need to have them. These conversations don't have to be hard, and in fact, they can be fun. Please RSVP to email: **Adult-RE** for more information.

Isabel Knight is a board member of the Funeral Consumers' Alliance of Pennsylvania (a volunteer-run organization that is not associated with the funeral industry) and Vice President of the National Home Funeral Alliance. She is a home funeral guide and a death doula.

An Exploration of World Religions

We 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." So RSVP to email: **Adult-RE** for our next session as we continue learning about Buddhism on April 19 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 write to email: **SGM**.



Stewardship: Grow, Love, Serve Campaign

If you have already made your pledge to UCWC for the upcoming year, thank you. If you haven't yet, please make your pledge as soon as possible, so our finance folks can create a budget that our members can approve at our June meeting. You can go [here](#) for pledging guidance and to pledge online. Or you can mail in a printed pledge form.

Your pledge matters.

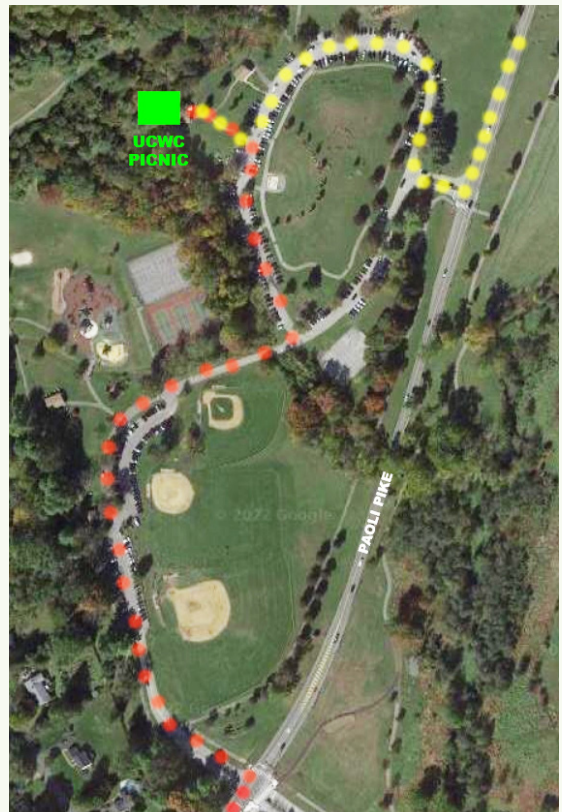
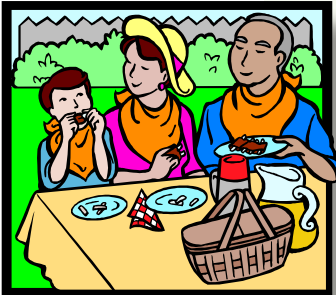
If you have questions or have never made a pledge before, contact Pam Sapko at email: [stewardship](#).

Fun & Fellowship

Stewardship Campaign Picnic

We will conclude our stewardship campaign with an outdoor Earth Day service and celebration picnic on Sunday, April 24, at East Goshen Park. The service starts at 10:00 am with the potluck picnic following at 11:30 am. Everyone is welcome. Sandwiches from the renowned Hank's Place will be provided. Bring your own beverage and a side dish or dessert to share. Musical instruments are also welcome.

East Goshen Township Park is located on Paoli Pike, just East of 352. From the southwest entrance, drive through the parking lot and turn left after the tennis courts – the Veteran's Pavilion will be on the left. From the northeast entrance, turn right and drive to the pavilion on the right.



Game Night

Looking for some in-person fun? Maybe something you've never tried before? Come and join us on Friday, April 1 (and I'm not fooling), in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm. Cards, board games – we play all kinds.

Bring your favorite or learn a new one. No food or beverages at this time, and masks will be worn. We look forward to seeing you there.



Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

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

Special Collection for Ukrainian Refugees

On Sunday, April 10, we will take up a special collection for Ukrainian Refugees, in addition to our regular offertory. All funds will go to the Providence Charity Organization of the Hungarian Unitarian Church in Transylvania and their efforts to meet the needs of the hundreds of thousands of refugees coming over the border.

If you are attending the service in person, you can give by cash or check. If you are attending online, or would like to give separately, go to ucwc.org/ukraine to donate.



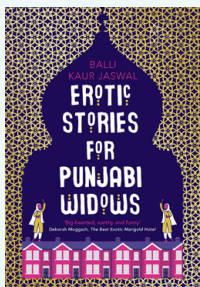
Diversity Book Club

April 10 7:00-8:30 Zoom

Leader: Pat Shorten

Erotic Stories for Punjabi Widows by Balli Kaur Jaswal

Nikki, the daughter of Indian immigrants, spends years tending bar in cosmopolitan West London and distancing herself from her Sikh community, until her father's death leaves the family financially strapped. A law school dropout, she impulsively takes a job teaching "creative writing" to proper Sikh widows, who were expecting only to learn basic English.



After one widow finds and shares a book of sexy stories with the class, Nikki realizes that beneath their white dupattas, these modest women have a wealth of fantasies and memories to express. She tries to teach them, although secretly, to avoid the scrutiny of a group of highly conservative young men, self-appointed as the community's "moral police." When the secret gets out, and one widow's gossip offers shocking insights into the death of a young wife, it sparks a scandal that threatens them all.

Criminal Justice Reform

Did you know that:

...UUJusticePA has a statewide criminal justice reform team.

Learn more about that [here](#). Ending death by incarceration is a key issue for our statewide team and other prison reform groups in PA. Here is what UUJusticePA has to say about death by incarceration:

In PA, anyone found guilty of first or second degree murder is automatically sentenced to life without parole. The judge has no discretion to do otherwise. Thus, a person who was merely a lookout or getaway driver when a murder occurs is charged with second-degree murder. There are now more than 5,000 persons sentenced to die in Pennsylvania prisons, many of them elderly. "Death by Incarceration" is expensive to taxpayers, as well as inhumane to the individuals affected.

...Under the umbrella of our continental wide organization the Unitarian Universalist Association and the UU group the Church of the Larger Fellowship you can connect with others in our faith community working for criminal justice reform. Learn more about the pen pal program connecting UU's who are incarcerated with UU's in the community and other efforts [here](#).

We encourage everyone to recognize that each person is more than the worst thing they've ever done.

All are warmly invited to join our monthly team meeting on Zoom on Tuesday, April 5, at 4:30 pm. If you can't attend the meeting and want to learn more or get involved, contact us at email: criminal-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 people who reside in the West Chester school district... because no one should go hungry!

UUJusticePA & CeaseFirePA Take a Stand in Harrisburg Advocacy Day April 26

We deserve the ability to live our lives without the fear of being shot. Pennsylvania’s communities need more resources and common-sense gun reforms to stop the bleeding. UUJusticePA is excited to partner with survivors, community organizations, veterans, and others to advocate for gun safety on Tuesday, April 26. Be part of the solution and join us for an action-packed day featuring meetings with lawmakers and a rally. [Register for Advocacy Day.](#)

Not comfortable with in-person events? The rally will be livestreamed to [CeaseFirePA’s facebook page](#), and virtual participants will be able to engage with the virtual gun safety community on social media. Contact Tom Buglio for more information.

UUSC Update

UUSC members around the country wrote letters and signed a petition urging the Biden administration to formally acknowledge Rohingya genocide, and on March 20, it finally happened.

Read [Your Words Matter: the #CallitGenocide Campaign Succeeds](#). UUSC advocates, as well as our partners and coalition allies, helped to make this historic occasion possible by joining our voices to the demands of Rohingya people around the world who are leading the struggle for justice. The U.S. genocide determination, while overdue, is the fruit of this global solidarity.

TAKE ACTION. There is much work still to be done, and UUSC will not stop in our efforts to support our partners and join in their calls for international solidarity. [Congress must pass the BURMA Act](#), and the Biden administration must take further steps to support the Rohingyas’ quest for justice in international mechanisms. Learn more by reading [UUSC’s statement](#) responding to the Biden administration’s genocide determination.

Support UUSC’s work for human rights around the world. Become a member [here](#).

Thank you.



Southeastern Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute 2022 **THIS YEAR’S THEME: GRATITUDE**

July 17-July 23
Western Carolina University,
Cullowhee, NC

**CLICK HERE
FOR THE SUUSI CATALOG**

Check out the “join us” menu above for practical details, and the “by age” and “by interest” menus for all the programs.

Registration opens April 1
Go to www.suusi.org

Calendar

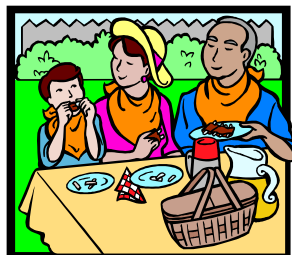
All email addresses
@ucwc.org

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

SPECIAL COLLECTION



PICNIC!!



Mar 31	Thu	Explorations. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 4.
Apr 1	Fri	Family & Friends Game Night. 7:00 pm. Sanctuary. See p. 6.
		SUUSI Registration Opens. See p. 8.
Apr 3	Sun	First Sunday Food Collection. See p. 8.
Apr 4	Mon	Executive Team. 7:00 pm. Email: executive-team .
Apr 5	Tue	Criminal Justice Reform Team. 4:30 pm. See p. 7.
		Men's Group. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 5.
		UU History and Theologies. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 5.
Apr 6	Wed	Small Group Facilitators Meeting. 7:00 am.
Apr 9	Sat	Women's Retreat. See <i>Connections</i> for updates.
Apr 10	Sun	Special Collection for Ukrainian Refugees. See p. 7.
		Diversity Book Group. 7:00-8:30 pm. Zoom. See p. 7.
Apr 11	Mon	Religious Services Committee. 6:30 pm.
Apr 12	Tue	Program Council. 7:00 pm.
Apr 14	Thu	Explorations. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 4.
Apr 17	Sun	Share-the-Plate Sunday. BWCCA .
Apr 19	Tue	Adult RE Committee. 4:30 pm. Email: adult-re .
		Board Meeting. 6:30 pm. All are welcome.
		Adult RE: An Exploration of World Religions. 7 pm. Zoom. See p. 5.
Apr 20	Wed	Black Lives Matter Committee. 3:00 pm. Contact Sandra Schaal, email: black-lives-matter
		Green Burial and End of Life Planning. 7:00 pm. See p. 5.
Apr 21	Thu	Religious Education Committee. 7:00 pm.
Apr 24	Sun	Stewardship Picnic. After the service. East Goshen Park. See p. 6.
Apr 26	Tue	UUJusticePA Advocacy Day. Harrisburg. See p. 8.
		Committee on Ministry. 6:30 pm. Email: COM .
Apr 28	Thu	Explorations. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 4.

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

Web: www.ucwc.org
All email addresses @ucwc.org

Rev. Daniel Schatz, Minister 610-692-4043 email: [minister](#)
Maggie Christy, Office Administrator 610-692-5966 email: [office](#)
Matt Zencey, President email: [president](#)
Cassie Lengel, Director of Lifespan Faith Development email: [DLFD](#)
Steve and Linda Sander, The Fellowtarian Editors email: [fellowtarian](#)