

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

June 2022



NOTES FROM REV. DAN

At our Flower Service this year, we held a ceremony to welcome our newer members. There were 12 of them, six of whom joined in the last month. Although a few were here before the pandemic threw a massive wrench into the “way things used to be,” most have known us primarily, or almost entirely, online.

What has amazed me the most about our new members is how connected they feel. Some of them talked to me about their experiences in Explorations, or attending adult religious education on Zoom. They spoke of other people in the congregation, some of whom they looked forward to meeting in person, because they could just tell they’d be friends. Some, who had been coming more in person, had already pitched in to help on Sunday mornings. Others, who had never set foot in our building before the day they signed the membership book, talked about how intimate and caring this congregation is, and the quality of community we share.

I am awed by the way our congregation’s character has been able to shine though, whether in person or online, over the last couple of years. It speaks to the strength of our community – the caring we do, the insights we share, our dedication to bettering the world around us. We truly

grow, love, and serve together – and it shows.

After that service we held a meeting about the budget issues we’re facing right now. Fewer pledges, fundraisers, and rentals after two years of pandemic have taken some toll on our momentum and our long-term finances. The good news is that a group of members have come together to offer matching grants to

help us bring in the funds we need, not just for this year, but next year as well. It’s a generous offer – one-time gifts will be matched dollar for dollar. In order to help us grow our stewardship for the long term, pledge increases and new pledges will be matched two to one.

That’s a tremendous gift, and I’m grateful for it, just as I’m grateful for the warmth here, and the spirit of welcome. I’m grateful for our attention to covenant, and our commitment to come together even when we have differences. I’m grateful for our commitment to justice, and our openness to learning. I’m grateful for the very real love and commitment we show to our congregation, to Unitarian Universalism, and to one another.

And of course, I’m grateful for our new members and friends. Welcome! We are so glad you’re here. You have already made our congregation an even better place.

In faith, Dan

Our Mission

Our mission is to:

GROW in spirit, heart
and mind

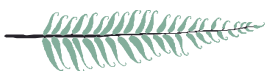
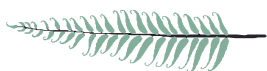
LOVE through care
and community

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.

Minister's Schedule

During the Summer, Rev. Dan's office hours are by appointment. He can be reached at email: **minister** or by cell phone. Dan will be on leave and unavailable from June 20–July 10.

June 5 10 am

A DANGEROUS JOURNEY Rev. Dr. Om Prakash INTO THE KNOWN BUT FORGOTTEN

The Transcendentalists believed that the obligation of the human being and the religious person was to transcend the limits of our thinking and our conditioning to become whole, powerful individuals. Can we do this in the year 2022, and what does it take to break the internal chains of socialization and conditioning? We will explore these issues in an attempt to rediscover and reignite the courage and commitment of the Transcendentalists and their philosophy about personal growth and freedom — and take a snapshot of what real freedom is.

Rev. Dr. Om Prakash (John Gilmore) is a retired UU minister, writer, certified life-coach, licensed massage therapist and teacher. He is a graduate of Meadville Lombard Divinity School. He later received his D.Min. at University of Creation Spirituality in Work and Spirituality. His focus for the last 20 years has been the practical application of alternative therapies and healing modalities to empower and to remove the negative effects of oppression, suppression, and depression.

June 12 10 am

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Cassie Lengel and SUNDAY - ALL AGES SERVICE Rev. Dan Schatz

Let us celebrate together the journey our children and youth have been on this year in their Religious Education classes. We've had many new faces and many returning friends this year, so we are celebrating a grand RE welcoming into our programs. We also have a number of graduating high school seniors who we are welcoming into our young adult community with a special bridging ceremony.

This service will be followed by our annual meeting, which will be hybrid in-person and on Zoom. Please be sure to be there.

June 19 10 am

JUNETEENTH

**Rev. Dan Schatz
and Marilyn Gross**

Juneteenth commemorates the final emancipation of enslaved African Americans at the end of the Civil War. As we honor the day, we will talk about the ways Juneteenth has been observed for over 150 years, and what Juneteenth can mean for us today.

Jun 26 10 am

WE ARE ALL WOUNDED HEALERS Rev. Kim Wilson

We don't get to live life without experiencing any pain — it's a part of the human condition. Henri Nouen, author of a little book called *Wounded Healers*, suggests that by finding and addressing the suffering in our own hearts, we become better able to help others to heal their hurts. In this way, we can all become wounded healers.

Rev. Kim Wilson was ordained in 2001 and served the UU congregation in Madison, CT for six years. She recently retired after serving the UU Fellowship of the Poconos in Stroudsburg for almost ten years. This past December, she bought a house in Emmaus, PA, and has been happily engaged in renovating the house and its gardens. Rev. Kim also enjoys yoga, hiking, traveling in her camper and spending time with her two-year-old grandson.

From the President

It's budget season at UCWC, and as your financial leaders prepare a proposal for you to consider at the annual meeting on June 12, we are facing an historic one-two punch: the highest inflation in 40 years combined with the fallout from a once-in-a-century pandemic.



Costs are going up at a record rate (more than 8% in the past year), while our generous pledging (and it has been generous) has not kept pace. During the pandemic, income from our rentals and other fundraisers has shrunk.

We are grateful that so many of you increased your pledge during this year's stewardship campaign. Your commitment to a healthy future for UCWC is inspiring! But while our average pledge has definitely gone up, it's not nearly enough to support what we want and need to do.

As your leaders explained during the May 22 Town Hall on the budget, we need to redouble our financial efforts if we are to be the kind of spiritual and faith community we want to be. (If you'd like more detail on our financial situation, please contact email: [finance](mailto:finance@ucwc.org).)

To keep UCWC healthy and strong — to keep offering you this beloved community where we Grow, Love and Serve — we've launched a matching campaign. Some very generous donors are offering to give up to \$20,000...but **ONLY IF** it is matched by extra gifts or pledges from the rest of our members.

When you add a one-time gift through this campaign, your gift is matched dollar-for-dollar.

If you increase the annual pledge you offered in this year's stewardship campaign, you trigger a 2-for-1 match. First-time pledgers will also trigger a 2-for-1 match.

To contribute through the matching campaign, go online to ucwc.org/match or send your donation information to email: [finance](mailto:finance@ucwc.org).

Thanks in advance for your generosity and commitment to sustain our faith community, where we grow in spirit, heart and mind; love through care and community; and serve beyond ourselves.

Matching Campaign is Underway!

Because we are facing unprecedented challenges in planning this year's budget, we've launched a matching campaign to encourage pledge increases and one-time gifts. This campaign will help us weather the historic one-two punch inflicted by the highest inflation in 40 years and the fallout from a once-in-a-century pandemic.

For more information, see Matt Zencey's president's message, left. To donate, visit ucwc.org/match. Thanks for your generosity and commitment to sustaining our faith community, where we Grow, Love and Serve.

Pastoral Care

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



Men's Group

On Tuesday, June 7, at 8 pm, Irv will lead a discussion on "What is spirituality, and have you attained it?" Please notice that the meeting will start an hour later than usual. 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 or Dirk at email: [mens-group](mailto:mens-group@ucwc.org).



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](mailto:SGM@ucwc.org).

Lifespan Faith Development

We are so proud of you, our RE family, for leaning into our theme of BELONGING this year, for supporting one another.

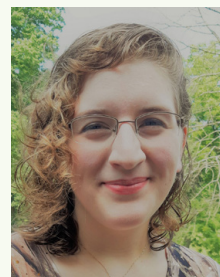
REflections: Religious Education Update

Once again it is that time of year when we begin to wrap up for the summer, and I, for one, could not be prouder of our RE kids. After finishing the RE year in 2020 virtually, and doing the entire year of 2020-21 virtually, we were all expecting to be fully back to "normal" this year. Unfortunately, we've had a bit of a roller coaster ride as variants have kept us on our toes, yet with every twist and turn our kids have stuck with us.

We are so proud of you, our RE family, for leaning into our theme of BELONGING this year, for supporting one another in community, and for coming together with grace and patience, laughter and kindness. We are also very proud of the Our Whole Lives (OWL) class that has met almost every week this year, dedicating their time and energy to that group to learn and develop skills for personal relationships with sexuality and partnership.

And finally, we offer our wholehearted congratulations to our graduating high school seniors this year, celebrating them as they bridge from being youth here at UCWC to transition into the realm of UU young adults. Please join us for our RE Sunday Extravaganza as we mark another year of great conversations and growth in our searches for truth and meaning.

— Cassie Lengel
DLFD@ucwc.org



RE Ice Cream Socials

As we've done each summer, the RE Committee is putting together three ice cream socials over the summer to create a space for our families to get together in support and fellowship.

This summer we will meet at a local park, and we will bring a cooler of individually wrapped ice creams, popsicles, and cold treats to share while we visit and play. Watch **Connections** for dates and more information about these no prep fun days.



Religious Education Wish List

This is just a reminder that while your RE Committee does request a budget to help buy supplies for our classrooms and activities, we also embody the values of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and try to be thrifty with our purchases. So, if you find yourself with extra craft supplies or furniture that you were planning to donate, consider reaching out to email: **DLFD** to see if we could use it at a discounted price or donation.

Thank you for helping us to support RE while we care for our environment, and we strive not to add to local waste.

Adult RE An Exploration of World Religions

We are continuing our study of World Religions based on Stephen Prothero's book, ***God is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run the World***, and the podcast "Interfaith Voices." This summer we will cover the last few chapters together as we look at Judaism, Atheism, Humanism, and more. You do not need to have read the book to join us, nor do you have to have attended any previous classes. Join us on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 pm via Zoom. Please send new RSVPs to email: **Adult-RE**.

Stones in the Wall: Social Justice



This month the Criminal Justice Reform Team asks you to take 35 minutes to watch this inspiring video **"Violence Interrupters: A Key Element of Justice Reform"** from the Friends Committee on National Legislation. Learn about violence interrupters and the difference they can make in preventing violence at its roots.

Additionally, you are warmly welcomed to join our planning meeting on June 7 at 3:00 pm on Zoom. Contact Robin Garrett at email: [criminal-justice](mailto:criminal-justice@ucwc.org).

UUJusticePA Gun Violence Prevention

UUJusticePA and our UCWC Gun Violence Prevention advocates are teaming up with GunSenseUs, Moms Demand Action, and CeaseFirePA for a rally to honor the victims and survivors of gun violence right here in Chester County. With gun violence on the increase across the country, Chester County is not immune. Join us in facing the reality of gun violence as a national health crisis that we all need to acknowledge and confront. Details follow. Contact Tom Buglio.

Save the Date

Sat
June 4
11 AM
Rain or
Shine

Chester County Rally to End Gun Violence

Join us and #WearOrange for the 110 lives cut short and the hundreds more wounded by gun violence every day.

Chester County Courthouse

2 N High St
West Chester, PA

Subject to Local Covid-19 Protocols

- UUJusticePA
- GunSenseUs
- CeaseFirePA
- Moms Demand Action



Contact Pennsylvania@MomsChapterLeaders.org



First Sunday Food Collection

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](mailto:grocery-program@ucwc.org), for more information.

UUSC Update

Click on the first few minutes of UUSC's 80th Anniversary Virtual Gala video for photos of their work taken over the years, and then hear and watch singer actress, Ami Brabson, sing Holly Near's *I Am Willing*. The gala, which took place in 2020, celebrates UUSC's human rights work.

Thank you for supporting Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Take Action: Politicians are trying to tie pandemic relief with asylum policy. [Click here](#) to read more about Title 42. Then call our senators and tell them "Don't let Congress kill asylum."

UUA Common Read, 2022

[Defund Fear: Safety Without Policing, Prisons, and Punishment](#) by Zach Norris

If, like me, you have struggled with the question of how we can have safe communities without the obvious threats posed by our current policing system, consider joining other UUs in this year's common read. According to the UUA website, "Zach Norris shifts the conversation about public safety away from fear and punishment and toward support systems for our families and communities. In *Defund Fear*, Norris explores what has gone wrong, and why, and who has been most harmed by repressive and racist policing systems. He offers a new blueprint for public safety that holds people accountable while still holding them in community." I'm excited to learn more!

Zach Norris is a community organizer and lawyer. He was until very recently the Executive Director of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights. For a preview of *Defund Fear*, you can watch a conversation between Zach Norris and a group of UU Religious Professionals moderated by *UU World* executive editor, Roger Santodomingo [here](#).

UCWC's initial discussion of *Defund Fear* is planned for June 15 at 7:00 pm. Please RSVP to email: [black-lives-matter](mailto:black-lives-matter@ucwc.org), and also register your preference for an in-person or Zoom meeting. Copies to borrow are available from our DLFD, [Cassie Lingle](#).

— Sandra Schaal

Fun & Fellowship

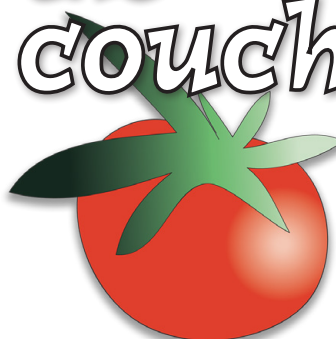
Game Night

Come join in Game Night in the Sanctuary on June 3 at 7 pm. Bring a game. Bring your friends. Bring and wear a mask. All ages are welcome. Come give it a try.



PIXABAY.COM

Support UCWC by dining at the couchtomato café



Menu features local and organic products, as well as a specialization in vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free offerings.



- Gourmet Pizzas •
- Specialty Salads •
- Signature Sandwiches •
- Homemade Soups •

**Fundraiser
SUNDAY
JUNE 19
11 am - 9 pm**

**31 W Gay Street in West Chester
Dine In or Take Out**

*Before you pay, mention the promo code:
UCWC fundraiser and 15% of your
purchase will be donated to UCWC.*

Contact Susan Batchelor at fun@ucwc.org

See full menu at thecouchtomato.com

Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

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



Don't Miss the Annual Congregational Meeting

The following people
are nominated for the
Board:

Vice-President
Ed Cohle

Secretary
Paul Sapko

Board Seats
Teri Lesser
Susan Bachelor

Budget
Click [here](#) to see the
proposed
2022-2023 budget.

Jun 1	Wed	Small Group Facilitators Meeting. 7:00 am.
Jun 3	Fri	Family & Friends Game Night. 7:00 pm. Sanctuary. See p. 6.
Jun 4	Sat	Rally to End Gun Violence. 11:00 am. Chester County Courthouse. See p. 5.
Jun 5	Sun	First Sunday Food Collection. See p. 5.
Jun 6	Mon	Executive Team. 7:00 pm. Email: executive-team .
Jun 7	Tue	Criminal Justice Reform Team. 3:00 pm. See p. 5.
Jun 7	Tue	Men's Group. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 3.
Jun 7	Tue	Adult RE: An Exploration of World Religions. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 4.
Jun 12	Sun	Annual Congregational Meeting. Agenda items include approval of the 2022-2023 budget and election of officers and Board members. After the service.
Jun 13	Mon	Religious Services Committee. 6:30 pm.
Jun 14	Tue	Program Council. 7:00 pm.
Jun 16	Thu	Religious Education Committee. 7:00 pm.
Jun 19	Sun	Share-the-Plate Sunday. Benefits West Chester Food Cupboard.
Jun 19	Sun	Dining for Dollars Fundraiser. 11 am - 9 pm. Couch Tomato in West Chester. See p. 6.
Jun 21	Tue	Adult RE Committee. 4:30 pm. Email: adult-re .
Jun 21	Tue	Board Meeting. 6:30 pm. All are welcome.
Jun 21	Tue	Adult RE: An Exploration of World Religions. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 4.
Jun 28	Tue	Committee on Ministry. 6:30 pm. Email: COM .

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

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West Chester, PA 19382

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