

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

July 2022



NOTES FROM REV. DAN

“What do you love about Unitarian Universalism?” I asked myself. And the answers began to come.

I love a religion which accepts us fully as we are and bids us to be more, that teaches we are never too old, too tired, too perfect, too flawed, or too obstinate to grow. I love a religion that grants us the freedom to explore widely and reminds us to seek deeply, encouraging us to ask ourselves challenging questions. I love a religion that honors the past while looking to the next horizon.

I love a religion that doesn't limit the sacred to a single word, but honors all – God, Spirit, Mystery, Love, Reality, Parent, Goddess, Ground of Being. Each is an invocation and an invitation to listen to each other, listen to ourselves, listen for the holy.

I love a religion that calls us to look beyond ourselves and turn to those in need of our attention – the marginalized, the oppressed, the neglected, the wounded earth – a religion that recognizes not only our inherent dignity, but also our inherent mutuality. We answer this call with the service of our hands and hearts.

I love a religion that calls us to look beyond ourselves and turn to those in need of our attention.

I love a religion that celebrates joyously and grieves authentically, recognizing that neither the sorrows nor the joys of our lives should be neglected, and that none of us need be alone. Being together in Unitarian Universalist community moves us to acts of love.

These are some of the things I love about Unitarian Universalism, but there is much more.

What do you love?

In faith, Dan

Our Mission

Our mission is to:

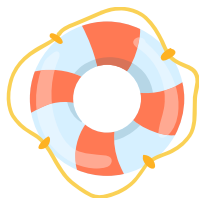
GROW in spirit, heart and mind

LOVE through care and community

SERVE beyond ourselves

Minister's Schedule

During the Summer, Rev. Dan's office hours are by appointment. In July he will be on leave through July 10 and after July 17. During the week of July 10, he can be reached at email: **minister** or by cell phone. If you have pastoral needs during this time, please contact email: **pastoral-care**. For other questions, contact email: **office**.



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.

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Team contact for this month is **Barbara Dallara**



July 3 10 am

ANOTHER INDEPENDENCE DAY

Rev. Dr. Om Prakash

There was a movie called Independence Day where Extraterrestrials came and attempted to attack and destroy the Earth. The whole world came together in order to resist. What would happen if we were attacked by a true threat that could destroy the whole world, like Global Warming, now referred to climate change? Let us explore ways to do the Greater Work of creating a better society for all, not by suffering or fuming with anger, but by creating healthy communities where living, loving, and enjoying everything that we do fully and completely has become the norm.

Rev. Dr. Om Prakash (John Gilmore) is a retired UU minister, writer, certified life-coach, licensed massage therapist, and teacher. A graduate of Meadville Lombard Divinity School, he received his D.Min. at University of Creation Spirituality in Work and Spirituality and did Postdoctoral Work at Sat Yoga Institute in Costa Rica studying spirituality and identity. His focus for the last 20 years has been the application of alternative therapies and healing modalities to empower and to remove the negative effects of oppression, suppression, and depression. He was a monthly Dharma teacher at Won Buddhist Institute in Abington and presently serves on the CUUPS national board in the position of Right Relations, and as a Trustee on the Triumph Church of the New Age Board.

July 10 10 am

A LAYPERSON'S THOUGHTS ON SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

Janet Hutchison

Janet Hutchison, UCWC member, will share thoughts about and perspectives on Spiritual Authority from her position as a "practicing Unitarian Universalist."

July 17 10 am

A SENSE OF PLACE

Rev. Dan Schatz

In the season of vacations and adventures, we become more conscious of our surroundings – a mountain cabin, a day on the shore, an afternoon in the park. We can find spiritual fulfillment in any place or moment, if we allow ourselves to let go and simply be. We might even discover enlightenment in our own backyard.

July 24 10 am

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE IN A POST ROE WORLD

Janine Galen and Anwyl Scott

With the Supreme Court decision expected to reverse Roe, join us for an understanding of the days before Roe. We will explore a few front-line stories and some ways that UUs can help affirm the inherent worth and dignity of all people in new ways.

July 31 10 am

THE EVERYDAY WISDOM OF THICH NHAT HANH

Kathy Beatty

This talk will offer contemplations of deep and relevant wisdom from one of the greatest spiritual teachers of our time. Thich Nhat Hanh had tens of thousands of students worldwide. A courageous anti-war and social justice activist, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by Martin Luther King, Jr. He wrote more than 70 books translated into numerous languages. He combined an intense meditation practice with the progressive force of Engaged Buddhism.

Kathy will share personal revelations and meditations from years of study with Thich Nhat Hanh, including a silent retreat. The jewels of his wisdom and insight changed her life in many ways. It will be a great honor to share his joyous, loving teachings.

Lifespan Faith Development

Adult RE An Exploration of World Religions

We are continuing our study of World Religions as 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 7:00 pm via Zoom. Please send new RSVPs to email: **Adult-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 West Goshen Park, and we will bring a cooler of individually wrapped ice creams, popsicles, and cold treats to share while we visit and play.

Join us June 28, July 20, and August 18 at 7 pm.



REflections: Religious Education Update

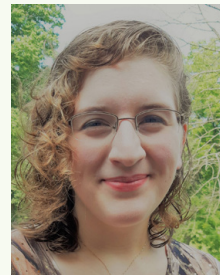
Here at UCWC we greatly appreciate our music and the gifts of our fellow congregants. Music is such an integral part of our worship, as it brings us together as a community. We sing together the words of our tradition, we lift our voices in a joyful noise, and we listen to one another in beautiful harmony. What better way to express our Unitarian Universalist values?

When we share a song with one another, we know that a tune can convey deep feelings, memories, moods, and it can offer incredible messages even across religions. That's one of the powerful things that music brings not only to our congregation, but particularly to our children.

When we gather for our intergenerational choir, we bring the power of our tradition, the stories of our ancestors, and the shared feelings and experiences, as we exercise the spiritual practice of song to bind our relationships.

So, this month, in addition to saying a thank you to Miriam, the choir, and all those who have brought their musical talents to UCWC, I also want to offer a special shout out to Abby McGillivray. Abby has offered her time and dedication to organizing our Intergenerational Choir, and especially during a year of uncertainty coming back from the pandemic, we wanted to say thank you for all you do to foster these relationships through song.

— Cassie Lengel, DLFD@ucwc.org



Summer Religious Education

Since many of our families are traveling, we will take this summer for rest and the rejuvenation of our RE programs and supporters

Children and youth are always welcome to attend the services with their families, and they can use the fidgets and activity sheets during the service.

We are especially excited for our ice cream socials each month as we gather to reconnect together.

RE 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 as we strive not to add to local waste.

Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

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

UUSC Update

Action Item: Tell the Biden administration to support climate justice at the United Nations. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's partner, the Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change, is leading a campaign to seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) – a UN body charged with interpreting and enforcing international law.

They are asking the court to advise governments around the world on their obligations under international law to protect the rights of current and future generations from the adverse effects of climate change.

Sign the petition to help us call on the Biden administration to vote yes on this measure at the next UN General Assembly meeting.



UUSC puts UU values to work around the world. Any donation makes you a proud member. Learn more about UUSC [here](#).

Gun Violence Prevention

On Saturday, June 4, the UUJusticePA Gun Violence Prevention Team worked in collaboration with Moms Demand Action, GunSenseUs, and CeaseFirePA for a public rally on Wear Orange Weekend. Around 200 people participated, including ten UCWC members, under a beautiful blue June morning sky, with ten speakers, concentrating on the victims and survivors of gun violence.

As we know, gun violence can happen anywhere, even in bucolic Chester County. The emcee for the event was UCWC's Tom Buglio, leader of the UUJusticePA Gun Violence Prevention Team and the UCWC GVP liaison. He asked the audience, "Are you sick and tired of the school shootings, the domestic violence murders, the accidental deaths, the road rage shootings, the racist inspired mass shootings, of the gun rights crowd who love their guns more than children? Are you sick and tired of being sick and tired?"

The resounding answer: Hell Yes!

A number of people spoke, including:

- Cassandra Jones, former West Chester Borough Council member, who told of her mother who was shot when she was a child.
- Starr Cummin Bright, who related the story of the man who shot her coming out of church 31 years ago. She is still recovering to this day.
- Michelle Roberson, who spoke of the searing pain of losing her 18-year-old daughter on the highway bypass outside of West Chester to a road rage shooter. She said the pain never goes away.

At the end of the event, a list of what people can do now and organizations to support in this ongoing work was shared. UUJusticePA continued to collaborate with these other GVP groups in lobbying Senator Toomey, who voted for the bill, which was signed into law on June 25. This is the first national law in 28 years. It is not everything needed, but it is a start to help save lives. If you wish to be part of the UUJusticePA Gun Violence Prevention team, contact Tom Buglio at email: gun-safety.



First Sunday Food Collection

We are not collecting food on the first Sunday of each month. However, you can still make a financial donation. 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 on the UCWC donation web page. Click [here](#) and select "Grocery Cards for Food Cupboard."



Share-the-Plate Generosity

The Social Justice Committee's Share-the-Plate program raises money to give to local non-profit organizations working to improve life for Chester County residents. We are pleased to announce the share-the-plate recipient for July 17 (third Sunday of the month), **The Maternal and Child Health Consortium of Chester County – Healthy Start Program**.



The overarching goals of MCHC's Healthy Start program are to improve birth outcomes by providing prenatal and postnatal home-visiting as well as pre and postnatal socio-emotional strengthening support, parenting education, and health education; reduce health disparities by providing insurance and benefit enrollment assistance and food stability for children and their families; ensure children are prepared for kindergarten and have the tools to succeed in school and beyond, and that families of children entering kindergarten are engaged in their child's education and in their communities.

Please note the following as you prepare your donation:

- All checks should be payable to "UCWC".
- Checks with memo "All to charity" or similar go to the charity. Clearest is "All to MCHC Healthy Start".
- Checks with memo "plate", "donation", "STP", or "share the plate" are split 50/50. Clearest is "STP 50/50".
- All other checks go 100% to UCWC, unless otherwise indicated.

Thank you for your generosity to May recipient, Friends Association, in the amount of \$730.

2022-2023 Share the Plate Recipients

The Social Justice Committee will choose the 2022-2023 Share the Plate recipients in August and would like to invite nominations for organizations to support. To nominate an organization, please request a form from Emily Sweet at email: **share-the-plate**. The deadline for nominations is Sunday, August 14.

Recipients should be local Chester County groups that help people in the area. Preference is given to small, local organizations that do not have large amounts of funds from government or other sources to sustain them.

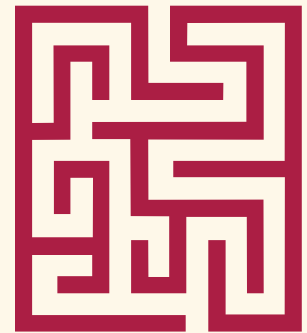
If you have nominated an organization in previous years, please re-submit a nomination form to update the information and re-affirm your desire to nominate the organization.

Fun & Fellowship

Walk the Labyrinth Sunday, July 24, after Services

The Church of the Loving Shepherd has a lovely outdoor labyrinth located on their grounds on New Street.

We can carpool or caravan over after services on July 24 and experience a meditative walk. Plan on an hour or so. The size of our group is limited to 10. Please RSVP to email: **fun**.



Fun & Fellowship Notes

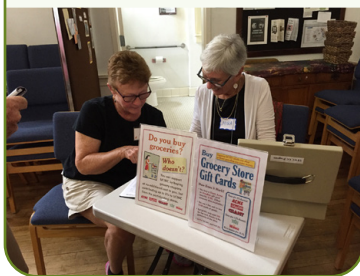
- **Game Night.** There is NO Game Night scheduled for July. See you in August.
- **Coming in September.** We are planning a fall picnic at East Goshen Park on September 9 after services. More details will follow.
- **Dining for Dollars.** Thanks to all our participants. Couch Tomato had fun rooftop dining.

Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

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

Don't forget to buy grocery store cards after the service.



Men's Group

The Men's Group will do things slightly different this time – weather permitting, we will meet in person on Tuesday, July 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.



- Jun 28 Tue RE Ice Cream Social.** 7:00 pm. West Goshen Park. See p. 3.
- Jul 3 Sun First Sunday Food Collection.** See p. 4.
- Jul 5 Tue Men's Group.** 7:00 pm. 4 pm. Struble Trail parking lot. See p. below, left.
- Jul 17 Sun Share-the-Plate Sunday.** Benefits MCHC Healthy Start Program. See p. 5.
- Jul 19 Tue Adult RE: An Exploration of World Religions.** 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 3.
- RE Ice Cream Social.** 7:00 pm. West Goshen Park. See p. 3.
- Jul 21 Thu Religious Education Committee.** 7:00 pm.
- Jul 24 Sun Walk the Labyrinth.** After the service. Church of the Loving Shepherd. See p. 5.

EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:

- Various Dates Small Group Ministry (Several Active Groups).** See [web calendar](#) or contact email: [SGM](#).

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](#).



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