

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

October 2022



NOTES FROM REV. DAN

Our congregation is many things, to many people. We are a community of growing, loving, and serving. We are a haven for joy. We are a place where we can deepen as human beings. We are a sanctuary where we nurture children, youth, and adults. We are a people working for justice and equality. We are part of what calls us to take stock of who we are and how we will be in the world. We are a spiritual reflection of the full gambit of human experience.

This month, we will be all of these and more, as we launch into a fall season filled with activities, including some new and some we've missed over the past few years. For the first October in three years, our classrooms are filled with children, our singing fills the sanctuary, and we even expect the return of food at social hour in the near future. (Check your email for updates on both masking and social hour.)

Two events in particular stand out this month — one is our October 9 workshop, "Building a Culture of Inclusion," led by Paula Cole Jones. A lifelong Unitarian Universalist, Paula is

a powerful speaker and facilitator and has worked with UU congregations across the country. In order to be accessible to everyone, the workshop will be held on Zoom from noon to 3:30 pm — yes, there will be breaks — and I hope you will plan to set aside the afternoon to take part. It's important work for our congregation and for all of us.

For the first October in three years, our classrooms are filled with children, our singing fills the sanctuary, and we even expect the return of food at social hour in the near future.

On October 22, following an online silent auction earlier in the week, we'll come together for our very first hybrid auction. It will be a true joy to be able to combine the energy of our live auction with the accessibility of an online one. Again, I hope to see you there, whether it is in person or online.

Through it all will be our usual diversity of Sunday services — from the reflectiveness of the Jewish High Holy Days to our all ages Halloween Sunday. (Come in costume on October 30.)

I love all that our congregation is and does and the energy we are building together this Fall. I love that we grow, love, and serve with all that we do. I'm looking forward to this month — won't you come join us?

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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West Chester PA 19382
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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.

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.

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.

October 2 10 am TURN TOWARD LOVE Rev. Dan Schatz

The Jewish high holy days are a time for turning – from brokenness to healing, from alienation to love.

October 9 10 am IN FROM THE MARGINS Rev. Dan Schatz

Unitarian Universalism teaches powerful lessons about human worth, inclusion, freedom, and responsibility. How do we manifest these values in our lives? This service will be followed at noon by an important workshop, “Building a Culture of Inclusion”, led by Paula Cole Jones. The workshop will be held on Zoom – we ask all who are able to register and attend. (More details are on page 6.)

October 16 10 am ON ETERNAL LIFE Chris Hyson

Eternal life is something that billions of humans have strived for, at least throughout recorded history and likely for much longer. The promise of existence beyond life is central to many of the world's major religions, but often with prerequisites or caveats. How do Unitarian Universalists achieve eternal life?

October 23 10 am FALLING TOWARD LIFE Rev. Dan Schatz

All of us have known times when things didn't go the way we expected or planned. Such moments can be hard, but they can also be opportunities for reflection and awakening.

**October 30 10 am WHO ARE YOU? Rev. Dan Schatz and
WHO AM I? Cassie Lengel
ALL-AGES HALLOWEEN SERVICE**

Halloween is a time for imagination, costumes, and stepping out from our ordinary lives. All ages are invited to come in costume for this all-ages Halloween celebration!

UU History and Theologies

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, October 25, from 6:30-8:30 pm.**

There will be stories, 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 email: minister.

From the President

This fall, I'm working with an ad hoc team to look at changing the way we recruit and support leaders at UCWC. Among our ideas: We want to let everyone know what roles are open and provide good information on what's involved, what rewards you might experience, and how your contribution would serve our mission. ("Grow. Love. Serve.")



We'll have some open roles to fill at our annual meeting in June, when you will vote on board president, vice-president, and two board seats. (We also elect two seats on the Nominating Committee.) While that election is quite a way off, it's actually not too early to start thinking about whether you might serve on the board.

Why might you want to do so? Board service is an honored and important opportunity to help ensure that UCWC is a healthy and vibrant spiritual and faith community. You help us in our mission, which includes to "love through care and community." You will grow in knowledge of UCWC and Unitarian Universalism, forge deeper connections with fellow UUs, and have the chance to learn leadership skills. Extra bonus points: It's not a huge time commitment.

What does board service involve? A UCWC board member is a trustee with a fiduciary responsibility for the long-term health of our congregation's people, our finances, and our building. The board avoids involvement in day-to-day operational questions (which are handled by our Executive Team), but the board provides advice or input when asked. The board's focus is on larger questions – how do we fulfill our mission, how do we minister to our members, and what longer-term issues need to be considered? The board may consider the longer-term implications of how routine UCWC operations and activities are conducted.

Perhaps you're thinking, "But am I qualified to fill this role?" You don't have to be a long-time member. It's helpful if a board member is familiar with some aspects of operations at UCWC, but a fresh perspective is also good, and the main thing is a willingness to learn more. Board members strive to do what is best for the health of UCWC, rather than pursue any particular pre-determined agenda.

Our team is still working up the formal "role description" for board members, including more specific details. Meantime, if you'd like to know more, contact me at email: [president](mailto:president@ucwc.org) or the Nominating Committee at email: [nominations](mailto:nominations@ucwc.org).

— Matt Zencey



Planned Giving

Wed, Nov 16 7:00 pm Zoom

Join Jennifer Feld, Esq., and Pam Sapko to learn how you can support UCWC without any cost to you today, why it is important to have a will, and other things to consider when thinking about your legacy. Please note: Although Jen is an attorney, she will not be providing any expert tax advice.

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Hospitality Sign-Ups

We are moving to a new system for our welcoming and (once we add food again) social hour teams. We ask all who attend in person and who are able to sign up for a specific role on a regular Sunday each month (i.e., first Sunday Welcoming lead, third Sunday server, etc.), or to be a substitute for either welcoming or social hour.

We will implement the new system as soon as signups are complete. To sign up, please go to ucwc.org/hospitality, or use the QR code with your phone's camera.



Lifespan Faith Development

As we come together once more, we bring the experiences of these past few years.

Making Our Space

Do you fancy yourself artistic? Do you enjoy organization? Well, stop playing those interior design games on your phones and come help deck out our RE classrooms for the new year. If this interests you, contact Cassie at email: **DLFD** to learn more.



Register Your Family for RE

Registration is now open for our 2022-2023 RE programs. Please register each child using the **confidential form on our website**. While many of our children have been a part of our program in previous years, it is important that we have the most up to date information for our records. This allows us to maintain a safe environment and cater to the individualized learning needs and interests of our children.

A reminder that with our COVID measures: we have been using air purifiers that circulate each classroom at least six times in an hour, all those working with children are fully vaccinated, and we ask and expect that anyone attending UCWC in person is vaccinated as fully as they are able. Thank you.

REflections Religious Education Update

As Unitarian Universalists, we draw wisdom from many different sources, two of which are our Jewish and Christian roots. As we end September and begin October, we find ourselves reminded of the Jewish holy days of Rosh Hashannah and Yom Kippur — a time of turning and renewal.

We honor these holy days in RE by embracing turning, striving to always be growing more loving and inclusive, and conscious of the identities and needs of those around us and those not present to speak for themselves. Rev. CB Beale describes this as “Preemptive Radical Inclusion,” or basically that you prepare a space that is welcoming for everyone regardless of who attends.

As we come together once more, we bring the experiences of these past few years. We carry awareness of mental health, the dedication to the safety of the vulnerable, the need to promote antiracism, and the search for belonging...basically the creation of the “new normal.”

So what better time than these Jewish Holy Days to focus on turning: to evaluate how we’ve shown up in the past, to be present with our authentic selves, to give grace and make space for needs, to forgive ourselves and others, and to dedicate our energy to what is most important in our lives.

Let us offer our hearts up, again and again, as we continue to learn and grow together.



— Cassie Lengel
Email: **DLFD**

“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, and 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.

“Explorations” 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 Callie Durner beginning on October 17 and continuing with the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Please RSVP to email: **DLFD**.

Important Auction Update

As of press time, the **October 22 auction** will be hybrid Zoom and in person according to the following schedule:

4:00 Appetizers and Silent Auction Final Bidding. Note that this is a change from our original plan of ending silent bidding on Friday. **It has not yet been decided whether the final silent session will be paper or online bidding.**

As always, if you cannot be at the event, you may have another person do proxy bidding.

5:00 Entertainment.

5:30-6:30 Live Auction. In-person and Zoom.

6:30 Dessert.

Note: There will be no check-out. As in the past two years, invoices will be sent to winners on Sunday, and payment will be online or by snail mail check.

Things are very much still in flux regarding logistics. Updates on **Connections**, the website, and by email will be forthcoming. Registered bidders will get additional emails with updates and links the morning of each session.

UCWC NEEDS YOU!

...to donate to our annual auction.

The deadline to be included in the catalog is October 1. Click [HERE](#) to donate now.

We especially need high earning donations like group dinners, which are more acceptable now that pandemic precautions have eased.



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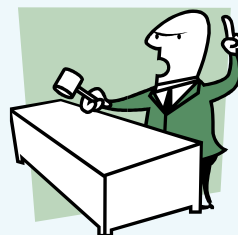
THE SILENT AUCTION STARTS OCTOBER 16

Like the last two years, the silent online auction will be on Google Sheets with the following bidding sessions. Note that we have removed the October 9 session and added October 22.

- Sun Oct 16 noon-1:00 pm
- Wed Oct 19 7:30-8:30 pm
- Fri Oct 21 7:00-8:30 pm
- Sat Oct 22 4:00-5:00 pm There will be some form (paper or online TBD) of silent bidding during the appetizer hour.

Please Note:

- You will NOT need a Google account to access the bidding sheets.
- Registered bidders will receive the access links to the Google sheets by email in advance of each bidding session.
- You must be registered to bid.
- All those who participated last year were automatically pre-registered and should have already received an email with a paddle number. (It will probably be different than last year's number.)
- If you have not received a number, you can register [HERE](#).



Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Team contact for this month is **Carrie Sandler**



Men's Group



The Men's Group will do things slightly different this time: Weather permitting, we will meet in person on Tuesday, October 4, at 4:30 pm in the parking lot of Natural Land's Stroud Preserve at 454 North Creek Road to hike — 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**.

Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

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

Congregational Workshop "Building a Culture of Inclusion" Sun, Oct 9 noon-3:30 pm Zoom



We are honored to welcome Paula Cole Jones who will lead an interactive workshop, "Building a Culture of Inclusion," for our congregation.

The workshop includes two 90-minute sessions separated by a 30-minute break. It is designed to provide experiential learning on the relevance and transformative nature of the 8th Principle and a larger framework for understanding cultural change in the UU context.

Paula is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist and a nationally-known management consultant with over twenty years of experience and special expertise in racial justice. She is co-author and leading ad-

vocate of adding an 8th UU principle, which would commit UU congregations to anti-racism work.

Please register at: [here](#) or email [black-lives-matter](#) for the Zoom link.

Gun Violence Prevention

UUJusticePA encourages everyone to vote this election — either by mail or on November 8 — and to be guided by our UU values.

Click [here](#) to learn more and to find links to essential voter guides for those who support gun violence prevention measures.



Criminal Justice Reform

While the Criminal Justice Reform team will not meet in October, one issue we ask you to learn more about is the widely varying and deeply discriminatory cash bail practices among the various counties in Pennsylvania.

For example, in Pennsylvania 33 percent of white defendants charged with felony weapons offense were assigned cash bail compared with 78 percent of black defendants charged with similar offenses. To learn more, click [here](#).

UCWC



CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM Team



To learn even more you can contact email: [criminal-justice](#), and we will forward to you the link to register for this ACLU-PA webinar:

**"Making Bail Visible:
A New Interactive Data Tool"**
Thu, Oct 6 at 3:00 pm

Letter Writing Campaign to Get Out the Vote

Join UCWC members in a Vote Forward letter writing campaign to encourage people from historically under-represented communities in Pennsylvania to vote in the midterm elections by November 8.

Vote Forward letters use nonpartisan language to encourage voting, because research shows it is more effective than partisan messaging for increasing voter participation. In 2020 Vote Forward letters made a real difference in tight races. If you are interested in writing letters to encourage voter participation contact Kathy Beatty.

November 8 is the Mid-term Elections

Are you registered to vote? October 24 is the last day to **register** before the election. And if you will not be voting in person, November 1 is the last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian **absentee ballot**. November 8 by 8:00 pm (election day) is the last day for County Boards of Elections to receive mail-in and civilian absentee ballots.



Theater Outing: Mushroom

The Black Lives Matter and the Racial Justice Working Group are excited to encourage folks to attend the play *Mushroom* running from September 14 to October 16 at **People's Light Theatre** in Malvern.

Plot summary: In Kennett Square, "the mushroom capital of the world," intersecting lives of immigrant families collide when a workplace injury, an unexpected romance, and the looming presence of immigration authorities have far-reaching ramifications for the entire community.

We have selected the 7:30 pm October 6 performance for UCWC folks to attend. If we get ten or more folks who want tickets, we will get a discount. If you want to be included in the group buying tickets for that performance, email your interest to **black-lives-matter**. Robin Garrett will coordinate the ticket purchase.



SCENE FROM MUSHROOM

Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

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

First Sunday Food Collection

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.

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!

Oct 1	Sat	Last Day for Your Auction Donation to Be in the Catalog. See p. 5. Cleanup Day. Contact Maggie at email: office .
Oct 2	Sun	First Sunday Food Collection. See below.
Oct 3	Mon	Racial Justice Working Group. 5:00 pm. Zoom. Contact Pam Sapko. Executive Team. 7:00 pm. Zoom.
Oct 4	Tue	Men's Group. 4:30 pm. Natural Land's Stroud Preserve. See p. 6.
Oct 6	Thu	Theater Outing. “Mushroom” at Peoples Light. 7:30 pm. See p. 7.
Oct 9	Sun	Congregational Workshop: “Building a Culture of Inclusion.” noon-3:30 pm. Zoom. See p. 6. Diversity Book Group. 7:00 pm. Zoom. This month's selection, <i>The Vanishing Half</i> by Brit Bennett.
Oct 11	Tue	Program Council. 7:00 pm. Zoom.
Oct 16	Sun	Share-the-Plate Sunday. Benefits Act in Faith . Click here to donate. Auction Silent Bidding Online Session. Noon-1:00 pm. See p. 5
Oct 17	Mon	Racial Justice Working Group. 5:00 pm. Zoom. Contact Pam Sapko. “Explorations.” 7:00 pm. Social Hall and Zoom. See p. 4.
Oct 19	Wed	Auction Silent Bidding Online Session. 7:30-8:30 pm. See p. 5
Oct 20	Thu	Religious Education Committee. 7:00 pm.
Oct 21	Fri	Auction Silent Bidding Online Session. 7:00-8:30 pm. See p. 5
Oct 22	Sat	Annual Auction. 4:00 pm. See p. 5.
Oct 24	Mon	Last Day to Register to Vote. See p. 7
Oct 25	Tue	UU History and Theologies Class. 6:30-8:30 pm. Zoom. See p. 2.

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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