

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

November 2022



NOTES FROM REV. DAN

Thanksgiving is almost upon us – and for my family this will be the first in three years to look anything approaching normal. Two years ago COVID kept us all apart, and last year a family health crisis came up at just the wrong time (everyone is fine now). So, I'm looking forward to something of a return to tradition.

Of course, not everything will be the same. We'll miss some old friends, and new guests will be invited to our table. There will be new dishes offered, along with our usual turkey, veggie pot pie, stuffing, and Indian green rice. I might even avoid setting the turkey on fire this year, but I'm not making any promises.

Our congregation is returning to a Thanksgiving tradition as well – our beloved bread service. For those who are new to UCWC, the bread service is held each year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. We bring bread – it could be homemade or store bought

It all feels like a return to Thanksgiving – the old, the new, the very different, and the very familiar.

– that says something about us, our cultures, or our backgrounds. During the service we briefly tell our bread's story, and then together we share the bread. It's a simple service that reminds us of our many stories and the beauty that comes when we share together.

Of course, not everything will be exactly the same. Since this year's service will be hybrid, we invite those joining us online to send descriptions of your bread in advance, and we will share them during the service. (You can also send a photo of your bread, send some along with a friend, or simply enjoy your bread at home!)

Following the service, we'll enjoy a soup and bread potluck in the sanctuary.

It all feels like a return to Thanksgiving – the old, the new, the very different, and the very familiar. And that is a welcome feeling indeed.

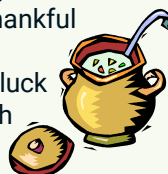
In faith, Dan

Bread Communion/Soup Potluck

As we move into the season of thankfulness, we are so happy to be able to celebrate our Bread Communion in person this year – and extra thankful that we can actually enjoy each person's offerings.

In addition to the Bread Communion, we will again enjoy a soup potluck after the service. This is a favorite UCWC event, and if you are new with us, it's a great way to meet us and learn more about who we are.

If you are interested in making a crockpot of soup, please speak to Lauren Kelly (email: fun). Thank you.



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.

November 6 10 am

ALL SOULS

Rev. Dan Schatz

On All Souls Day we honor our ancestors, remember loved ones we have lost, and remember the dead. This special service will include a ritual of remembrance. All who come are invited to bring a photograph or a memento of someone you are remembering for the altar.

November 13 10 am

**HOW TO
BLESS THE WORLD**

Rev. Dan Schatz

A blessing is far more than a few words, hastily spoken. It can be as large as an entire life.

November 20 10 am

**RISING BREAD
ALL-AGES BREAD SERVICE**

Rev. Dan Schatz

Cassie Lengel

Miriam Davidson

For this beloved all ages service, we invite all members and friends of our congregation to bring a kind of bread that represents your background or in some way describes you or your family. Together we will share the bread and the stories that come with it. Gluten free bread is especially welcome so that everyone can participate in the bread communion. **This special service will be followed by a soup and bread lunch.**

November 27 10 am

AM I A MYSTIC?

Robin Garrett

Perhaps mysticism is already part of your search for truth and meaning or maybe not. Join us for an exploration of mysticism and what may or may not constitute being a mystic. Some aspect of mysticism may help you find a way to live in peace with some of life's most difficult questions.

Year Three of COVID: How Are You Doing?

It Helps to Talk about It



Your UCWC leaders want to hear from you. How are you doing as we face year three of COVID?

Join the Town Hall listening session, Sunday, November 13, after the service. We'll meet in person at the sanctuary, and you can also join by Zoom. (The Zoom link will be in that Sunday's order of service.) We'll break into small groups to hear how COVID has affected you and gather your thoughts on UCWC's path forward from the worst of the pandemic.

See you then.

— Matt Zencey, Board President

Auction Wrap-up

Thanks to all who participated — as a committee member, as a helper, as a donor, or as a bidder — for making the 2022 auction a great success. The unofficial total is a little over \$6,800.

Please remember to pay for your winnings. All winners were sent an email detailing the various ways to pay — at the UCWC website, through PayPal, by mailing a check, or dropping a check or cash in the basket.

We also encourage those who won items to pick up the items Sunday, October 30, at UCWC.

Thanks again.



From the President

About 35 of us attended the Paula Cole Jones Zoom workshop “Building a Culture of Inclusion,” including all seven of your board members. It offered good information on how a congregation can benefit from becoming a “community of communities” with many landing places for new people to join us, in hopes we can become much more diverse.



Paula then made the case that to promote inclusion, we should embrace the proposed 8th UU principle, the nut of which would commit us to “accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.” Making this transformation is intended to lead us to “Beloved Community.” (The exact wording is being worked on, she said, so we should focus on the essence of it.)

As we consider this approach, here are some of the questions that come to my mind. (I’m speaking only for myself. Because we are UUs, each of us is free to hold different views on this.)

First, “dismantling racism” — what exactly does that mean and where is it most important to focus?

UUs have a long tradition of racial justice work in the secular world. And our country’s history of systemic racism still shapes many of our political, economic, and social systems in ways that call us to strong and persistent action. But the 8th principle discussion has focused on internal UU matters — dissatisfaction over hiring and funding decisions, pushing changes that give people of color more power in UU affairs, questioning why UU membership is overwhelmingly white. (In one interpretation, “racism” is evident when a UU congregation fails to reflect the racial diversity of its community.)

So, who decides what counts as racism and “dismantling” it? Each individual congregation? A subset of the congregation, **such as a Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) caucus**? Central UUA authorities, invoking a “covenant” of some kind among congregations? Similar questions arise about defining and enforcing “accountability.” What counts: effort or results? Who decides, and how?

These (and other) questions are percolating as the UUA is fast-tracking work **to rewrite its governing bylaws and our spiritual principles**. How that process plays out will have profound implications. Our UU faith has long been one of many paths, with room for diverse spiritual views, and it is built on “congregational polity” — each congregation governs itself. UUs have explicitly rejected the dogma and hierarchical governance found in some other churches. Can we find a path that honors those UU values while heeding those who call for transformational anti-racist action?

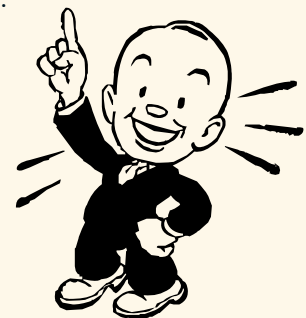
There will be a workshop to consider and discuss different perspectives on these matters, after the Sunday, October 30, service. Please join me in attending.

Our UU faith has long been one of many paths, with room for diverse spiritual views, and it is built on “congregational polity”— each congregation governs itself. UUs have explicitly rejected the dogma and hierarchical governance found in some other churches.

Men’s Group

The Men’s Group will do things slightly differently this time. Weather permitting, we will meet in person on Tuesday, November 1, at 4:00 pm in the parking lot of the 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: **men’s group**.



Lifespan Faith Development

This holiday season as we prepare to share our time and care with one another over a Thanksgiving meal, we are reminded that it is the people that we are here for.

Pastoral Care

The **Pastoral Care Team** contact for this month is **Pam Seres**.



Reflections

Religious Education Update

As we enter November we begin looking ahead to Thanksgiving – culturally a holiday for spending time with family and giving thanks for our many blessings. Here in UCWC we are also embracing these values of community and gratitude.

As we've come back to in-person events this year, I know I have wanted to jump right back to where we had been pre-pandemic. I know I want robust programs full of deep conversations and spiritual learning. I want small groups to abound in new members getting to deepen relationships. I want to offer a myriad of justice opportunities and experiences. But what we are seeing is that we are in a "new normal."

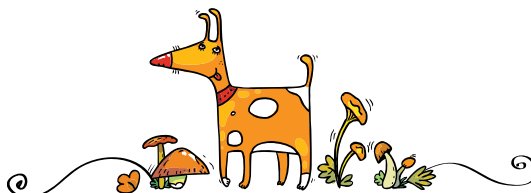
We are returning to UCWC, but with the complications these last few years have brought upon us. We are all stretched across so many commitments and our attention is being drawn to priorities first. While this means that our programs this year don't look exactly like they did pre-pandemic, this does offer us an opportunity to prioritize within our community. We have so many wonderful things we want to do, but first and foremost we are here in support of one another.

This holiday season as we prepare to share our time and care with one another over a Thanksgiving meal, we are reminded that it is the people that we are here for. No one cares if you didn't clean the closet or if you have napkins with turkeys on them or if you brought a dish that isn't homemade.

Similarly, at UCWC we remember that we are not measured by our productivity in what and how many things we can offer. We aren't judged by appearances or what each can contribute. Here at UCWC we are welcomed into the feast to celebrate with one another in love. So show up to the table, bring your whole self, accept and offer support, and enjoy community.



— Cassie Lengel
Email: **DLFD**



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**.

News from General Assembly The Article II Commission



One of the most important topics of discussion at the UUA General Assembly in June, 2022 was the report from the Article II Commission which has been charged with studying Article II of the UUA bylaws for possible revision. Article II includes the Principles and Purposes of the UUA. The Article II Commission is recommending significant changes to the UUA Principles, Sources, and Freedom of Belief statement.

If you'd like to learn about these proposed revisions to UUA bylaws Article II, UCWC GA attendees will present our 9½-minute reporting video and a 6-minute commentary video followed by discussion. Please join us and/or go to the webpage.

- Join us on Sunday, October 30, at 11:15 am at UCWC to see and discuss the videos.
- Go to [UCWC.org/Article2](https://ucwc.org/Article2) for links to both videos and additional information, including how to give feedback to the UUA.

We can now provide links to the FULL proposed draft and where you can register for one of the Zoom feedback sessions with the UUA's committee. (These feedback sessions are necessarily small and could fill up fast.)

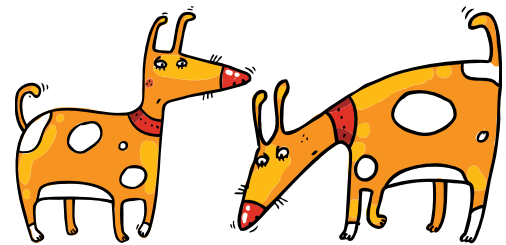
- Download the full proposed draft [here](#).
- Register for a feedback session [here](#).

UCWC June 2022 GA Attendees were Wayne Bullaughey, David Cohen, Cheryl Pittenger, Rev. Kate Rohde, Pam Sapko, and Sandy Schaal.

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 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.



Transgender Day of Remembrance

Sun, Nov 20, 7 pm at UCWC



Each year our congregation partners with community organizations to host a Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil. We will honor and share the names of transgender people who have lost their lives to violence in the past year and have an opportunity for conversation and sharing. The vigil will be at UCWC, beginning at 7:00 pm.

Planned Giving with UCWC

Wed, Nov 16 7pm 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.

Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

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

Diversity Book Group

Sun, Nov 13 7:00-8:30 pm Zoom
Leader: Anwyl Scott

American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins. Lydia lives in Acapulco. She has a son, Luca — the love of her life — and a wonderful husband who is a journalist. And while cracks are beginning to show in Acapulco because of the cartels, Lydia's life is, by and large, fairly comfortable. But after her husband's tell-all profile of the newest drug lord is published, none of their lives will ever be the same.

Forced to flee, Lydia and Luca find themselves joining the countless people trying to reach the United States. Lydia soon sees that everyone is running from something. But what exactly are they running to?



UUSC Update

UUSC, The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, puts UU values to work around the world in over 20 countries, with over 50 grass roots partners. Here is one update.

Earlier this year, Climate Justice Resilience Fund awarded UUSC a \$225,000 grant to explore how to address loss and damage in the Pacific.

UUSC and its partners met in Fiji to determine and co-design the type of activities that the CJRF grant would support. The answers ranged from creating more spaces for dialogue about the impact of climate change on the community, to building tangible, small-scale projects, like the construction of a seawall to prevent the destruction of villages.

"Loss and damage is a term that is new for many of the grass-roots communities that our partners serve," explained Salote Soqo, who is the director of advocacy and global displacement at **UUSC**.

Economic loss and damage includes the loss of tangible, quantifiable items. This can be the loss of property, and in many cases, livelihoods. Communities with a deep connection to their geography, like those in the Pacific Islands, also experience non-economic loss and damage — such as the erasure of cultural identity, disconnection from ancestral land, or trauma experienced from climate-related events. Soqo, a Pacific Islander herself, explains: "Land is part of our identity as Indigenous Pacific Islanders. We bury our ancestors close to the shoreline, so when the sea level rises, we lose more than the land. We lose our heritage."

UUSC will not demand their partners monetize Indigenous resources and experiences as part of the effort to repair the damage. The grant will also help UUSC encourage other funders to look beyond standard monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) approaches.

Soqo hopes UUSC's results will help other public and private funders understand why a story-based, qualitative approach to evaluation is a more just way to assess funding impact.

Guest at Your Table 2022

Guest at Your Table, UUSC's annual educational and fund-raising event, kicks-off on Sunday, November 20. Look for **Stories of Hope** booklets and other materials then, and please give generously. Any donation makes you a proud member. Donate [here](#).

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 on the UCWC donation web page — click [here](#) and select "**Grocery Cards for Food Cupboard**." Contact Cyndy Bullaughey, email: [grocery-program](#), for more information.

Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

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



NOTE

There are two
important
October 30 items
on this calendar.
Please go to the
directed pages
for details.

| | | |
|--------|-----|---|
| Oct 30 | Sun | Article II Commission Meeting. Videos and discussion. 11:15 am. UCWC. See p. 5. Pick Up Auction Items. Before and after the service. See p. 2. |
| Nov 1 | Tue | Criminal Justice Reform Team. 3:00 pm. Zoom. Men's Group. 4:00 pm. Nature Land's Stroud Preserve parking lot. See p. 3 |
| Nov 4 | Fri | Family Game Night. 6:00 pm. Sanctuary. |
| Nov 6 | Sun | First Sunday Food Collection. See p. 6. |
| Nov 7 | Mon | Racial Justice Working Group. 5:00 pm. Zoom. Contact Pam Sapko. Executive Team. 7:00 pm. Zoom. |
| Nov 8 | Tue | Program Council. 7:00 pm. Zoom. |
| Nov 13 | Sun | Town Hall Listening Session - Year Three of COVID. After the service. Sanctuary and Zoom. See p. 2. Diversity Book Group. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 6. |
| Nov 16 | Wed | Planned Giving at UCWC. 7:00 pm. See p. 5. |
| Nov 17 | Thu | Religious Education Committee. 7:00 pm. |
| Nov 20 | Sun | Bread and Soup Potluck. After the Bread Service. See p. 1. Guest at Your Table Kickoff. See p. 6. Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil. 7:00 pm. UCWC. See p. 5. Share-the-Plate Sunday. Benefits Baby Food Fund. |
| Nov 21 | Mon | Racial Justice Working Group. 5:00 pm. Zoom. Contact Pam Sapko. |

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 . See p. 4. |



Minister's Office Hours

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

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](#)