

# THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

January 2023



## NOTES FROM REV. DAN

I admit it – I'm not good at traditional New Year's resolutions. I know they're great for many people, but somehow, I just can't get them to work for me. I've tried them and even stuck with a few for a while. (I'll exercise more. I'll eat healthier. I'll procrastinate less.) But after a month or so, I'm still the same old Dan, and all those resolutions have fallen by the wayside.

But there are other kinds of resolutions that can make just as much of a difference in our lives. Instead of (or in addition to) creating a task list of Things to Fix About Me, we can ask ourselves what we would like to invite into our lives. Perhaps art brings us joy – we can go ahead and schedule a day to see the next special exhibit in Philadelphia, or closer to home. Maybe we've been feeling isolated – we can reach out to some old friends or sign up for a Small Group Ministry or some other program here at the congregation. Maybe we feel overly caught up in all our day-

to-day commitments – we can make time to care for our own needs.

Everyone deserves kindness, but too often we reserve our kindness for others. While it's important to give to the people around us, we need to be able to give to ourselves too. We also are human beings deserving of care.

Make no mistake – I would never argue for over-indulgence or hedonism. It isn't that we should elevate the self above others or ignore the needs of the world around us. In many ways, it's exactly the reverse – when we can meet our own needs, we become better able to help others. We feel

better, relate better, and empathize better. We end up giving more. (We might even find it easier to exercise, eat healthier, and procrastinate less, but I make no promises.)

In this turning of the year, I wish that you find moments of care for the person within. It will awaken the heart and nurture the spirit.

You deserve nothing less.

In faith, Dan

*When we  
can meet our  
own needs, we  
become better  
able to help  
others.*



## Minister's Office Hours

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

## 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](mailto:office@ucwc.org)  
[www.ucwc.org](http://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 **Fatima Patel.**



**January 1 10 am**

**FIRE COMMUNION  
OF THE BURNING BOWL**

**Cheryl Pittenger  
and Kathy Beatty**

On or near the first Sunday in January, many Unitarian Universalist congregations hold a ritual to bid farewell to the old year and to release it. In the words of Rev. Elizabeth Harding, "The fire communion separates the end of the year from the beginning, helping us to put in perspective the joys and sorrows, the changes and transitions, the ups and downs of the year. It's a half-way point in our congregational year, but a celebration of the calendar year's end and the new year's beginning."

In a ceremony of the burning bowl, we are invited to write down words, or a phrase, to sum up what we wish to release before entering the new year. We will also reflect upon our intentions for the coming year.

Please join Cheryl Pittenger and Kathy Beatty in this annual ceremony.

**January 8 10 am**

**ARE YOU LISTENING?**

**Erin Clemens**

The world has so much to say, and there may be some disagreements along the way. But, by practicing the art of listening, we can all find our common ground.

**January 15 10 am**

**WINDS OF JUSTICE  
ALL-AGES SERVICE**

**Rev. Dan Schatz  
and Cassie Lengel**

This special All Ages service will honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, stories of justice past and current. *Please convert the cash in your Guest at Your Table box to a check with "UUSC" in the memo line, and bring it on or before this Sunday.*

**January 22 10 am**

**WHAT'S GOING ON  
WITH THE  
PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES?**

**Rev. Dan Schatz**

Will there be an 8th UU Principle, or possibly an entirely new way of expressing our shared Unitarian Universalist values? Rev. Dan will talk about proposed changes to our UU Principles and Purposes, why they're being reviewed, what it means for all of us, and how we can be involved in the process.

**January 29 10 am**

**MANY MOUNTAINS**

**Rev. Dan Schatz**

Unitarian Universalists are truth seekers – but is there only one truth? Can many spiritual paths help us meet different needs in our lives?



## From the President

Do our Seven UU principles need to be tweaked? Expanded? Totally replaced?



Those questions are getting intense attention, thanks to a comprehensive review being conducted at the national UU level. That review, mandated by current Unitarian Universalist Association

bylaws and known by the bureaucratic term "Article II Study Commission," is well underway. The answer being offered so far is: We need a total rewrite of our principles and sources.

Naturally, some UUs are asking "Why change our Seven Principles?" They believe the principles are elegant, concise, and expansive enough to allow each UU to interpret them as part of one's personal search for "truth and meaning." The principles haven't changed in decades, they say, and don't need to, because they have a timeless, enduring quality, which allows new thinking to inform how they apply as our faith and our society continue to evolve.

Responses to those concerns include: We've had the principles for so long they may be hardening into a "creed." They give too little attention to "love" as an element of our faith community. Today's principles have

never been updated to reflect the great racial awakening that has taken place at the national UUA and General Assembly levels in the past three decades. In that view, we UUs are inextricably embedded in and help perpetuate a "white supremacy culture," and unless we "dismantle" it, we cannot become a multi-cultural Beloved Community.

Someskepticsseethedraftprinciples as a first step in making a radical change in the kind of diverse and decentralized religion we are. They worry that a central authority will be empowered to mandate that anti-oppression work must be at the center of all we UUs do, with "accountability" that can be enforced on a congregation through a process known as "maintaining covenant."

Disputes over all this have created painful division in many UU congregations. I'm grateful that here at UCWC, we've had respectful discussions about the proposed "Article II" changes. More discussions are planned for us, likely starting in late January, when an updated draft of new principles and sources comes out from Boston.

UUs often say, "We don't have to think alike to love alike." As we grapple with legitimate differences of opinion about the future of our faith, I'm hopeful we will continue to uphold that wonderful guiding principle here at UCWC.

—Matt

*I'm grateful that here at UCWC, we've had respectful discussions about the proposed "Article II" changes.*

## Proposed Changes to the UU Principles and Purposes

Come explore proposed changes to the Unitarian Universalist Principles and Purposes. Every fifteen years, Unitarian Universalists review our Principles and Purposes and ask ourselves how they might be changed, so they can stay relevant and move us onward.

This year, some major changes have been proposed, with significant new wording. Rev. Dan Schatz and Cassie Lengel will host a series of online sessions to provide opportunities for as many of us as possible to look at the current draft.

The sessions will be based in the draft text itself, rather than a direct comparison with the current Principles. Please consider attending one of these sessions. (So that we can accommodate as many people as possible, we ask you to attend only one session.)

**January sessions will be Monday, January 30, and Tuesday January 31, at 7 pm on Zoom.** Stay tuned for additional sessions in February.

## Lifespan Faith Development

### 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](mailto:SGM).

## Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

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

## REflections: Religious Education Update

As we enter a new year, I find myself asking, what makes something new? Obviously, we might say that no one else has used it, or that it doesn't have any markings or wear on it. One of my favorite pastimes, thrift store shopping, has taught me another way to describe it — "something new to me." These treasures are things that we didn't own before, but they have their own stories to tell and quirks to learn.

Some people donate their surplus things to a thrift store so that others can find things that they need, or to help supply jobs and job training to folks. Some people donate things they no longer have a use for — even if these things brought them great joy, but by letting them go, someone else can find that joy. There is also something special about restoring something you found or helping to reduce, reuse, and recycle things to have a longer life with less waste.

So, when I think of starting something new, I don't think of it being shiny and perfect. When I think of something new, I often think about what came before, how I might use it in the future, how it makes me feel, and how to restore it and respect it. So naturally when I think of the start of a new year, I'm not plucking something complete and perfect out of the ether. When I start a new year, I look at where I've been, what state I'm in now, where I want to be, how I want to feel, and how to maintain it.

We might use this analogy for our congregation's programs as well. The year is turning, and we welcome a new beginning, but since our congregational year is from July to June, January isn't really a separate beginning as much as it is a time of renewal. What have we been doing in our programs? How are we feeling right now? What do we look forward to? What steps do we need to make it work?

As we contemplate these questions, we celebrate the fall we've had, and we prepare to come back together again after the holidays, as our RE classes resume on January 8, and we plan for our Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

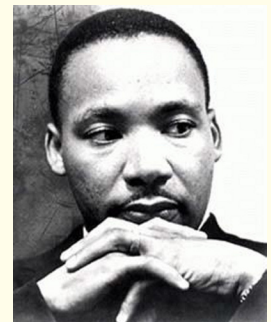


Cassie Lengel  
[DLFD@ucwc.org](mailto:DLFD@ucwc.org)

## Children's Books and Food for MLK Day of Service

The UCWC Racial Justice Group is supporting the Martin Luther King Day of Service at St. Paul's Baptist Church and the Melton Center by collecting children's books and nonperishable food items. Beginning January 2, there will be collection boxes in the foyer for new and gently used books for children and youth.

We are especially interested in books with multi-cultural themes and books that will offer children of underserved communities opportunities to see themselves in children's literature. Non-perishable food will also be collected in the lobby and delivered to the Melton Center on MLK Day. Please join us in celebrating Martin Luther King Day of Service.





## Diversity Book Group

Jan 8 7:00-8:30 pm Zoom

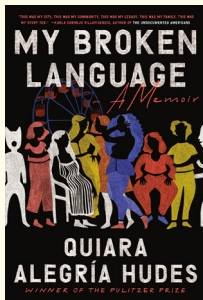
Led by Lorrie McKinley

*My Broken Language*

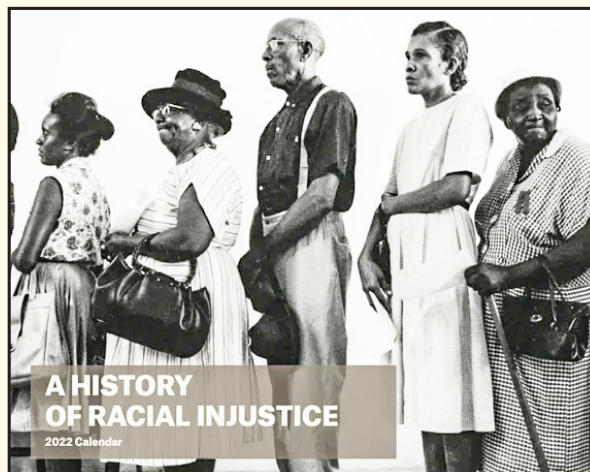
by Quiara Alegría Hudes

Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Quiara Alegría Hudes tells her lyrical story of coming of age against the backdrop of an ailing Philadelphia barrio, with her sprawling idiosyncratic, love-and-trouble-filled Puerto Rican family as a collective muse.

Weaving together Hudes's love of books with the stories of her family, the lessons of North Philly with those of Yale, this is an inspired exploration of home, memory, and belonging — narrated by an obsessed girl who fought to become an artist so she could capture the world she loved in all its wild and delicate beauty. 336 pages.



## Criminal Justice and Black Lives Matter



Free 2023 wall calendars from the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) are now available to members of our congregation. The calendar includes hundreds of historical entries and twelve short essays highlighting historical events and issues in our nation's racial history. The Black Lives Matter Committee and the Criminal Justice Team are distributing up to three copies of the calendar to each UCWC household and encourage you to display them at home or in your workplace, and perhaps offer it to any teachers you know who can use one with their students. To request calendars contact email: [criminal-justice](mailto:criminal-justice).

Click for more information about the [EJI Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery](#) and also the [calendar itself](#).

## UUSC Update

December 10 was the 74th anniversary of the UN's [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), a touchstone for UUSC's work. It sets out fundamental human rights to be universally protected and symbolizes humanity's hope that a different world is possible: one in which all people would be treated with respect and dignity. Take a moment to read or skim it, and you may agree that there is a lot that is similar to our own UU beliefs. What a fantastic touchstone!

UUSC partners with local community organizations around the world fighting for human rights. UUSC won't give up or despair, because these communities don't have the luxury to give up.

There's still time to make your contribution to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, and it is so important. Please take a moment now to donate [here](#) for UUSC's Guest at Your Table campaign or [here for more ways to give](#). Be sure to include that you're a UCWC member. You'll be helping humanitarian causes around the world.

For more about the Guest At Your Table campaign, see the [December Fellowtarian](#), page 8.

Thank you.



## Fun & Fellowship

## Winter Writers' Weekend

Are you a writer with words which need work? ...a writer with whimsy which needs words? Join us for the first annual Winter Writers' Weekend, January 20-22, at Temenos. Click [here](#) for the registration form — the registration deadline is January 9. Contact Sarah Hyson for more details.

AN EVENING WITH

# DAN SCHATZ



## SAT JAN 28 7 PM

UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF WEST CHESTER  
501 SOUTH HIGH STREET IN WEST CHESTER

Grammy-nominated  
folksinger, songwriter, and  
multi-instrumentalist



**\$20** SUGGESTED DONATION  
*More if you can. Less if you can't.*

**No one turned away**

Benefits Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

Office@UCWC.com • 610-692-5966

*"We are all involved, and —  
as Dan points out through his  
music — as a community we can  
make a difference."*

— Ron Olesko, *Sing Out!*

Concert  
An Evening with  
Dan Schatz  
Sat, Jan 28 7:00 pm

Come enjoy a special evening of folk music with our own minister, Dan Schatz. Dan is a Grammy-nominated folksinger, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and producer whose music combines deep roots in tradition with a strong sense of community. He has appeared on NPR's "All Things Considered" and Woodsongs "Old Time Radio Hour", played clubs and festivals nationally, and was listed by indie folk blog *Fate Magazine* as one of the artists in "the top drawers of American folk music."

A typical evening with Dan will feature a mix of songs from tradition, his own pen, and other writers, performed on six- and 12-string guitars, autoharp, banjo, and Appalachian dulcimer. Dan's 2015 album, *The Promise of the Sowing*, made multiple "Favorites" lists, with *Sing Out!* calling it "stunning," and has recently been re-released by Smithsonian Folkways. In addition to his solo albums, he has co-produced two widely acclaimed compilations — *Singing Through the Hard Times: a Tribute to Utah Phillips* and *Dear Jean: Artists Celebrate Jean Ritchie*.

The suggested donation is \$20 (more if you can, less if you can't, and no one turned away), with all proceeds supporting our congregation. Come enjoy some live music and join the choruses! For those unable to attend in person, we are hoping to live stream this special event.



## Folk Singing



Our next get-together is Friday, January 6, at 7:30 pm. We meet at the home of Linda and Steve Sander, who now live in Crosslands at 433 Crosslands Drive on route 926 just before the intersection with route 52.

All vaccinated adults are welcome. No singing talent or experience is necessary, just a desire to have fun. Capable musicians should bring their instruments. Bring a munchie if you wish. Maps are in the foyer. Contact Steve at email: [folk-singing](#) with questions or driving instructions.

**NOTE:** Please **test right before you come**, or **wear a mask**.

# Calendar

All email addresses  
@ucwc.org

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

## Men's Group

The UCWC Men's Group will meet Tuesday, January 3, at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. (No Zoom this time!) We plan to arrange the chairs in a socially distanced circle to ensure everyone feels safe.

Michael Werner will lead the discussion: "Why Are You UU?" Unitarian Universalism's liberal theology and inclusive belief system are often cited as the reason current members first walked through the front door.

Our theology and belief system are not based on dogma or creed but instead provide a process to enrich and ennoble our faith and deepen our understanding. The foundations of the UU denomination are currently based on the Seven Principles. In this discussion, we will explore what brought you through our door, and how the seven principles have influenced you.

Jan 1	Sun	<b>First Sunday Food Collection.</b> See below.
Jan 2	Mon	<b>Racial Justice Working Group.</b> 5:00 pm. Zoom. Contact Pam Sapko.
Jan 3	Tue	<b>Men's Group.</b> 7:00 pm. Sanctuary. See left. <b>Executive Committee.</b> 7:00 pm. Zoom.
Jan 6	Fri	<b>Family Game Night.</b> 6:00 pm. Sanctuary. <b>Folk Singing.</b> 7:30 pm. Home of Linda & Steve Sander. See p. 6.
Jan 8	Sun	<b>Diversity Book Group.</b> 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 5.
Jan 10	Tue	<b>Program Council.</b> 7:00 pm. Zoom.
Jan 15	Sun	<b>Share-the-Plate Sunday.</b> Benefits <b>Melton Center.</b>
Jan 16	Mon	<b>MLK Day of Service.</b> See p. 4. <b>Racial Justice Working Group.</b> 5:00 pm. Zoom. Contact Pam Sapko.
Jan 17	Tue	<b>Board Meeting.</b> 6:30 pm. Zoom.
Jan 19	Thu	<b>Religious Education Committee.</b> 7:00 pm.
Jan 22	Sun	<b>RE Open House.</b> 11:30 am.
Jan 28	Sat	<b>Concert: An Evening with Dan Schatz.</b> 7:00 pm. UCWC. See p. 6.
Jan 30	Mon	<b>UU Principles and Purposes.</b> 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 3.
Jan 31	Tue	<b>UU Principles and Purposes.</b> 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 3.
<b>EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:</b>		
<b>Most Thursdays</b>		<b>Spirit Singers Practice.</b> at 7:00 pm. For specific dates, contact Miriam Davidson, email: <a href="#">choir</a> .
<b>Various Dates</b>		<b>Small Group Ministry (Several Active Groups).</b> See <a href="#">web calendar</a> or contact email: <a href="#">SGM</a> . See p. 6.

## First Sunday Food Collection

We are currently not collecting food on the first Sunday of each month. However, as always, 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. Put your check in the collection plate or mail 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.



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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](#)