

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

March 2023



NOTES FROM REV. DAN

Do you remember connect the dots drawings? A staple for the under seven set, but not forgotten by advanced crossword aficionados, connect the dot art reveals hidden patterns and connections. What at first seems a disparate set of random points on a page slowly becomes a figure, an object, or a person. I've even seen a connect the dots Mona Lisa, created from over six thousand separate points.

OK, bear with me on this one.

We each connect with our congregation in different ways. We spend time in services, in small groups, in religious education classes, in choir practices, in committee meetings, in informal get togethers, in Zoom sessions, in game nights, in online services, in pastoral outreach, in justice actions, and so much more. Each time we connect, and each way we connect, is one point, meaningful all on its own, but a small piece of a much larger picture.

Sometimes, we lose track of the whole, focusing only on what concerns us in the moment, or whatever aspect of our congregation we tend to connect

with the most. But that single aspect remains part of something bigger and can't exist in isolation.

When we support our congregation in our annual stewardship drive, we give to the whole — supporting everything we are and do, from meaning making to gardening and all the rest of it. We connect with each

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other, and we connect all our different ways of being in this community. Think of each gift as a line between dots. As we draw from one point to another and another, the whole begins to emerge. Without those connecting lines, we wouldn't and couldn't exist as a congregation. When

the lines are strong and clear, our beauty and power emerge.

I hope you'll attend one of the gatherings this month, and some of the other special events coming up in the next couple of months. I hope you'll look over the stewardship material and pledge generously within your means this year, and if you're able, I hope you consider increasing your pledge. Together, we can create something beautiful.

— 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

Minister's Office Hours

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

501 South High Street
West Chester PA 19382
610-692-5966
office@ucwc.org
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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 **Diane Cohle**

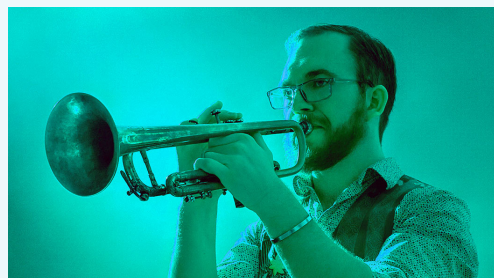


March 5 10 am

CONNECTING JAZZ SERVICE

Rev. Dan Schatz and Paul Giess

On this very special Sunday, we celebrate our connections to our congregation and to one another with a jazz service featuring reflections from Dan and music from acclaimed trumpeter Paul Giess and pianist Will Brock.



JAZZPHILADELPHIA.ORG

March 12 10 am

HIDDEN WONDERS

Rev. Dan Schatz

Wonders are all around us – in the ground, in our lives, and in the human heart.

March 19 10 am

THIS IS NOT MY BEAUTIFUL HOUSE

JD Stillwater

One of our culture's foundational myths is about ownership, security, and permanence. JD Stillwater offers a bit of science, some personal experiences, and a Talking Heads song as puzzle pieces toward a new, more vulnerable humility.

A graduate of Cornell University, JD Stillwater is a science ambassador and author who writes and speaks about profound insights from natural reality, insights that drive paradigm shifts and cultural awakening. This work springs from JD's love of science and his gift for making difficult concepts graspable for non-scientists. After 24 years teaching science and math in secondary classrooms, JD now shares the awe, wonder, and spiritual depth he experiences in what is being revealed by the global science community. JD is married (since 1987) with two grown children.

March 26 10 am

THE TIME OF COMPASSION

Rev. Dan Schatz

Most of us know Ramadan as the time when Muslims around the world fast from sunup to sundown. It is also a time for connection, mercy, forgiveness, and compassion.

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.

From the President



As a fan of baseball, I am always heartened to hear the magical words, “Pitchers and catchers report.” It means spring training is getting started, and months of baseball are ahead. I mention this in a UU context because I think the game of baseball offers the thoughtful fan a spiritual lesson of sorts.

Baseball is a game where failure is routine. The fundamental contest in baseball is pitcher vs. batter, one-on-one, with all eyes on the two. When a major league batter gets 3 hits in every 10 chances, he’s All-star material. If successful only 2 times in 10, he’s lucky he’s still on the team. On the pitching side, the greatest pros allow a baserunner an average of about once per inning, which works out to a 25% failure rate. Even a great major league team loses 30% of its games. When the definition of success includes so much failure, those involved have to be humble.

In our lives, as in baseball, we routinely make mistakes, so a certain amount of humility is in order. I was recently asked if I were willing to consider changing my view on a particularly hot question. Sure, I said, and I cited a story generally attributed to philosopher Bertrand Russell. Asked if he were willing to die for his beliefs, he replied, “Of course not. I might be wrong!”

To me as a UU, it’s important to be open to reflection about what we know and how sure we are about the conclusions we draw from the information we have. Of course, we can’t question everything all the time. In navigating daily life, we have to take a lot of things for granted — the sun will “rise” in the morning, that oncoming car will stay in its lane, and so on. But we can use some of our mental horsepower to reflect on the judgments we make about people or situations based on easily observable characteristics or tidbits of prior information.

It is inevitable that we will swing and miss in at least some of our judgments. Even if our mental shortcuts steer us right 90% of the time, we may well learn something the other 10% of the time. And as we see in baseball, a difference of one time in ten can determine whether you’re riding the bench or headed to the All-star game.

Connecting: Stewardship Drive



Our annual stewardship pledge drive will begin soon, starting with the Stewardship Sunday Service on March 5. This year we will connect first at small gatherings during March, either in person or by Zoom. We hope that you will join in. Please sign up for a small stewardship gathering now at ucwc.org/signup.

Pledge forms will be mailed to you. You will be able to make your pledge for the fiscal year that starts July 1 by returning your pledge form or on the UCWC website at <https://ucwc.org/giving> beginning March 5.

At the end of the pledge drive we will connect, and celebrate, in person at an outdoor picnic.

Are You Thinking about Membership?

If you are new to our congregation or have been around for a while and are considering membership, Rev. Dan would love to connect with you. He can be reached at email: [minister](mailto:minister@ucwc.org). In addition, please look for these programs coming up in March and April. For Zoom links, go to ucwc.org/zoom.

Explorations. Beginning March 16. Explorations is an opportunity for newcomers and longtime UUs to come together and talk about Unitarian Universalism, our own lives, our beliefs and spiritual practices. This small-group-ministry-based program will meet beginning in March. Topics covered include “The UU Principles”, “Our Beliefs”, and more. Contact email: [DLFD](mailto:DLFD@ucwc.org) to RSVP or learn more. Upcoming gatherings are on March 16, March 30, April 6, April 20, and May 4. See more on Page 4.

Path to Membership. April (date TBA). This single session class is a great way to learn more about our congregation and what membership is all about. Contact email: [minister](mailto:minister@ucwc.org) for more information.

Unitarian Universalist History and Theologies. Monday, March 20 at 7:00 pm. This evening with Rev. Dan gives a broad overview of our history, theologies, and stories. For more information write to email: [minister](mailto:minister@ucwc.org).

Remember, even if you are unable to attend these programs, you can always reach out to Rev. Dan for a conversation about membership.

Lifespan Faith Development

Join Our Tremendous Teachers and Creative Committee

Robert Frost once wrote, “I am not a teacher, I am an awakener...” While we may laugh this off as a jab at our early mornings in RE classes, the sentiment is actually pretty sound. As William Ellery Channing wrote, “The great end in Religious Education is not to stamp our minds irresistibly on the young, but to stir up their own,” so in a way what we do in RE really is awakening.

We celebrate the lives of our children, we inspire wonder, we explore questions, and of course we have fun too. Part of the beauty of getting involved in RE is that you end up learning at least as much as the children, so don’t worry about feeling unqualified — our children know that every person is important and brings their own talents and ideas. So, what are you waiting for? Get in touch with Cassie Lengel or any current RE teacher.

REflections: Religious Education Update

As we enter our stewardship season, I am reminded of something that Paula Cole Jones spoke about in her presentation this past fall. We are a “community of communities.”

If we recall from our Valentines service in February, we know we come to UCWC with one heart, to share love with one another, but we also know that heart is made up of many different parts that each have their own functions to help the whole keep beating.

As a congregation, we come together into one whole, just like this heart, but we all bring our own unique gifts, skills, energies, interests, time, inspiration, beliefs, and so much more. It is our similarities that hold us together, but it is our differences that help us function.

As we prepare to support our congregation as a whole, I hope we can all evaluate what we can bring to support UCWC — both monetarily but also what time and talents we can offer. Our community cannot thrive and grow without the support of the communities within our community — we cannot be whole without YOU.



— Cassie Lengel
Email: DLFD

RE Open House



Did you know we have a whole basement here at UCWC? Of course, we do! That’s where our children and youth gather to share and explore together in RE classes. Why don’t you come on down to visit us and see for yourself?

Join us on March 12 after the service for our Open House to get to know the teachers, see the classrooms, and get excited about our programs here. See *Connections* for more details soon.

“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, 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, as we delve into our common faith and our individual experiences. We will be guided by our very own Cathy Vogt and Jim McFadyen and will meet on March 16 and 30, April 6 and 20, and May 4 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. RSVP to email: DLFD to help us plan, but of course you are welcome to join in anytime.

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 March 20 from 7:00-9:00 pm. There will be stories, slides, 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](#).

Spiritual Practices

What is a spiritual practice? What if I'm not a spiritual, touchy-feeling person? What are the different kinds of practices? What are you doing that you could share? What helps you make it work? Where and when do you practice? How has your practice been going?

Join us beginning on March 8 on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month via 7:00 pm Zoom sessions to learn briefly about some different topics and actions found in spiritual practices and to support one another in the journey of your personal practice. Each session is independent from the whole and welcoming to newcomers, though the more sessions you can attend the better the support we can cultivate. For more information, contact Robin Garrett or Cassie Lengel at email: [Adult-RE](#).

Men's Group

The UCWC Men's Group will meet on Zoom on Tuesday, March 7, at 7:00 pm. Ed Cohle will lead a discussion, "Kindness and Compassion." 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 Matteson and Dirk Troltenier at email: [mens-group](#).



Fun & Fellowship

JUST IN: WOMEN'S RETREAT UPDATE

The Women's Retreat is scheduled for March 31-April 2 in a private rental home in Ocean City, New Jersey. For more information or to sign up, contact Janet Hutchison at email: [womens-retreat](#).



Writers' Workshop

Welcome all writers, from the novice to the experienced. Join us for a full day of writing fun, with workshops to help you develop your poetry or prose. We will meet at the Temenos Farmhouse for coffee and snacks and stay through dinner, all meals included. Register by Sunday, April 2 — forms are available from Sarah Hyson. We look forward to writing with you.



Folk Singing

Our next get-together is Friday, March 10, at 7:30 pm. We meet at the home of Linda and Steve Sander, 433 Crosslands Drive off 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.

COVID Procedures. Do **one** of the following:

- Self-test negative within an hour before leaving your home. This is our preferred option.
- If you do not self-test, you may still come, but you must wear a mask the entire night, even when singing.



Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

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

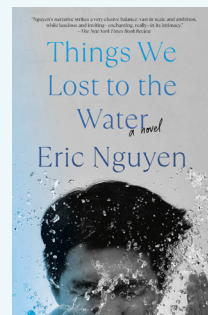
Diversity Book Group

Things We Lost to the Water by Eric Nguyen

Mar 12 7:00-8:30 pm Zoom Led by Pam Seres

Debut novelist Eric Nguyen tells the story of a fractured family in the Vietnamese diaspora. Huong and her young sons Tuan and Binh flee Vietnam soon after its reunification, while her husband Cong unexpectedly stays behind.

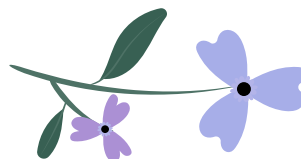
Things We Lost to the Water takes place mostly in New Orleans East projects from the family's arrival in 1978 to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, with brief side trips to Vietnam and to Paris. Nguyen succeeds in transporting the reader into the family's lives as they struggle to assimilate, to keep emotional and cultural ties to their homeland, and to retain their memories of their absent husband and father.



Safe Harbor Team Volunteer Opening

UCWC volunteers provide supper for 20 Safe Harbor residents twice per month. Each person helps prepare a meal two or three times per year.

The new schedule for 2023-24 is being organized. If interested in joining this team or for more information, please contact Gerry Giess at email: safe-harbor.



Anti-Racism Training for Philadelphia Area UUA Congregations



You are invited. Participate in JUBILEE Anti-Racism Training: Learning Together About Systemic Racism from Friday, March 24, at 6:00 pm to Sunday, March 26, at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

UCWC's Racial Justice Working Group members share their experiences in [this five-minute video](#). Training costs \$170, and partial scholarships are available. Please contact email: [black-lives-matter](#) if you are interested in children's programming during the workshop, a partial scholarship, or have any questions. You can register [here](#).

UUSC Update

There are times for healing and times for learning about horrors. Sometimes, as you are so fortunate to live in comfort in West Chester, you are ready to read about the **awful atrocities in Burma brought on by those in power**, the lives of folks in **Turkey** where the earthquake killed and injured so many, the people of **Ukraine**, or bad actions right here in the United States.

At other times, your heart needs a respite. During both times, **making a donation to UUSC**, even if you've already done it this year is helpful. UUSC is actively helping throughout the world including here in the US. Then you can give yourself a pause or read more about people in need, depending on what your heart can hold at the moment.



Take Action Call on Congress to Pass Police Reforms

The brutal police killing of Tyre Nichols has renewed the push in Congress to pass major reforms that will help prevent police brutality and make it easier to hold law-breaking officers accountable in court. The most comprehensive proposal is the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which passed the US House in 2021 but died in the Senate. (Details of that bill are [here](#).) Our UCWC racial justice team asks you to call our members of Congress and urge them to co-sponsor the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.

Rep. Chrissy Houlahan 202-225-4315
Sen. Bob Casey 202-224-6324
Sen. John Fetterman 202-224-4254



Gun Violence Prevention



UUJusticePA-Gun Violence Prevention, is sponsoring a trip to Harrisburg on Thursday, March 23, to meet with our legislators concerning pushing gun safety legislation through the Pennsylvania House this year. Tom Buglio is organizing a caravan and leading meetings with legislators in Chester County to build momentum to pass a bill that would save lives here in Pennsylvania.

You'll meet with legislative staff and attend a mid-day rally on the front steps of the Capitol with elected leaders, survivors, youth, faith leaders, medical professionals, and other advocates to demand change and a safer Pennsylvania.

For the first time in twelve years, we will have a gun safety majority in the Pennsylvania House — and a real chance to pass life-saving legislation.

If you are interested in traveling with Tom and others, please contact him at email: [gun-safety](#) Learn more and sign up [here](#).

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 March 19 (third Sunday of the month), [The Family Center of the Maternal and Child Health Consortium](#).

The Kennett Square Family Center has been helping southern Chester County parents carry out their role as their children's first teachers since 2006. Their bilingual, bicultural Parent Educators use the nationally recognized, evidence-based Parents as Teachers (PAT) Born to Learn home visiting model which equips parents with the information, support, resources, and encouragement they need to provide their children with the foundation for a lifetime of learning.

Parent Educators serve many roles including screening all children for developmental delays and link to Early Intervention services, completing structured home visits with activities geared toward teaching kids preschool skills and involving parents in their child's education, facilitating group educational activities with age-appropriate curriculum, enrolling uninsured, eligible children into health insurance, teaching bilingual parenting education, and conducting an intensive summer-long Kindergarten Transition Program focused on preparing incoming kindergartners and their parents for school and assisting parents with school registration.

The Fatherhood Program helps fathers learn to become more engaged in their children's growth and development, and become more effective husbands and fathers.

Thank you for your generosity to January recipient, The Melton Center, in the amount of \$705.



Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

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

Are You Web Savvy?



Do you have experience — at any level — with Word-Press? You can help maintain the UCWC website. We're looking for volunteers on several levels:

Level 1. Update simple pages, including the home page and the Upcoming Services Page.

Level 2. Create simple pages with text and images.

Level 3. Create pages with plugs for tables, forms, and drop-down content.

WordPress is a relatively simple content management system that enables those with no coding experience to create attractive, professional-looking pages.

Our current webmaster, Steve Sander, is planning to ease himself into semi-retirement. He will still be available for consultation and creating more complex pages. If interested, contact Steve at email: [webmaster](#).

Mar 3	Fri	Family Game Night. 6:00 pm. Sanctuary.
Mar 5	Sun	Stewardship Sunday. See p. 3.
Mar 6	Mon	Racial Justice Working Group. 5:00 pm. Zoom. Contact Pam Sapko.
		Executive Committee. 7:00 pm. Zoom.
Mar 7	Tue	Men's Group. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 5.
Mar 8	Wed	Spiritual Practices. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 5.
Mar 10	Fri	Folk Singing. 7:30 pm. Home of Linda & Steve Sander. See p. 5.
Mar 12	Sun	RE Open House. See p. 4.
		Diversity Book Group. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 6.
Mar 13	Mon	Religious Services Committee. 7:00 pm.
Mar 14	Tue	Program Council. 7:00 pm. Zoom.
Mar 16	Thu	Explorations. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 4.
		Religious Education Committee. 7:00 pm.
Mar 19	Sun	Share-the-Plate Sunday. Benefits Family Center. See p. 7.
Mar 20	Mon	Racial Justice Working Group. 5:00 pm. Zoom. Contact Pam Sapko.
		UU History and Theologies. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 5.
Mar 21	Tue	Board Meeting. 6:30 pm. Zoom.
Mar 22	Wed	Spiritual Practices. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 5.
Mar 23	Thu	Gun Safety Rally in Harrisburg. See p. 7.
Mar 24-26	Fri-Sun	Jubilee Anti-Racism Training. See p. 6.
Mar 30	Thu	Explorations. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 4.
Mar 31-Apr 2		Women's Retreat. See p. 5.
Apr 2	Sun	Deadline to Register for Weekend Writers. See p. 5.

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. 6.

The Fellowtarian is the monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

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