

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

April 2023



NOTES FROM REV. DAN

There are many ways to describe our congregation's land. "Small" would be accurate, or "increasingly beautiful," thanks to our dedicated landscape team. We might talk about the busy street, our proximity to the university, or our closeness to downtown West Chester. We could even mention the public works parking lot on the east end of Lacey Street.

We might also say that we are located in Lenapehoking, the traditional homelands of the Lenni-Lenape people. Our congregation — like most of our homes — stands on Lenape ground.

Over the years we have acknowledged this reality in various ways during services and religious education programs. Last Summer, we decided to take it a step further, and our Board, working with the Social Justice Committee, made a commitment to set aside one Share-the-Plate Sunday each year for reparations to the Lenape people. This month, on April 16, Chief of Ceremonies Chuck DeMund of the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania will join us for a special service as we offer reparations for the first time.

We recognize not only our responsibility toward the original inhabitants of this land, but also the complexities involved. Most Lenape were removed from this region and forced into reservations in Oklahoma and Kansas, and those who remained had to preserve their identity and culture in secrecy.

Pennsylvania is one of only thirteen states which does not recognize a tribe within its boundaries.

That history of erasure, combined with strict legal requirements, prevents the Federal government from recognizing the Lenape still living here. State requirements are different — both New Jersey and Delaware have granted recognition to local Lenape tribes, and the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania is lobbying for similar status. (Pennsylvania is one of only thirteen states which does not recognize a tribe within its boundaries.)

Concerned about a limited pool of resources, and worried about who can claim authenticity, some western Lenape oppose these efforts. It is a sad relic of a racist history that the ultimate decision-making authority rests not with indigenous people, but with colonial powers, and that our system places tribes in competition with each other.

In choosing the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania as a recipient, we acknowledge this difficult history, while working to counter the realities of erasure. It is one step we can take to undo the racist legacy of the past, build relationships for the future, and contribute to a growing sense of empowerment and hope. It is one way we can dismantle racism, journeying towards wholeness.

By offering reparations, we truly live our commitment to grow, love, and serve. I'm proud of the commitment we've made and look forward to our service on April 16.

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

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.

April 2 10 am

**A SONG OF HOME
MUSIC SUNDAY**

**Miriam Davidson,
Rev. Dan Schatz, and
UCWC Musicians**

Our annual Music Sunday celebrates home with song, poetry, reflections, and contributions from a host of UCWC musicians.

April 9 10 am

A SOUL AWAKENS

Rev. Dan Schatz

The story of Easter is one of life, death, and above all, rebirth. When the spirit within us has grown weary, how do we awaken?

April 16 10 am

**TEACHINGS FROM
THE TURTLE CLAN**

**Chief Chuck DeMund
and Rev. Dan Schatz**

Acknowledging the Lenni Lenape people as the original inhabitants of our region, we dedicate this very important Sunday to recognition and reparations. Rev. Dan will be joined by Chuck DeMund, Chief of Ceremonies and Director of Intertribal Affairs for the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania, who will share Lenape stories, history, and teachings, as well as current struggles for recognition. Our offering this morning will be shared with the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania as part of our congregational commitment to reparations for the Lenni Lenape.

April 23 10 am

**WEAVING THE
WEB OF LIFE**

**Rev. Dan Schatz and
Cassie Lengel**

ALL-AGES EARTH DAY SERVICE

We celebrate the web of life with an all-ages service that honors the Earth, our ecosystems, and our interconnections.

April 30 10 am

**THE SPIRITUAL
PRACTICE OF NAPPING**

Rev. Latifah Griffin

Join us as we explore the "Rest is Resistance" Framework and identify ways to incorporate napping into your spiritual practices.

Rev. Latifah Griffin is a graduate of Lancaster Theological Seminary. She was raised in Chester, Pennsylvania, and works as a counselor and as the Interim Director of Spiritual Development at the Unitarian Society of Germantown. Latifah's personal mission is to enlighten others to our interconnectedness as humans.

Latifah was baptized in the Baptist tradition as a teenager and after a long discernment process, she found a new spiritual community in the Unitarian Universalist tradition in 2018, as a member of First Unitarian Church of Wilmington.

Minister's Office Hours

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

From the President



At this year's General Assembly in late June, delegates will consider a complete rewrite of the foundational statements of our shared faith, which are found in Article 2 of our UUA bylaws. You may know them as **The Seven Principles** and **Six Sources**.

We plan a town hall after the service on April 23 where differing perspectives on **the new "Article 2" proposal** will be offered, followed by questions and discussion. Meanwhile, some background info may be helpful.

In its charge to the commission drafting a new Article 2, the UUA board said "the Commission shall de-center habitual practices that reinforce white supremacy culture." UUA Executive Vice President Carey McDonald commended the proposed new wording. "Dismantling oppression and white supremacy," **he told UU World**, is "not optional or secondary. Instead, it is "a core part of what makes us UU." He described the changes as "deepening and expanding of the language of the Seven Principles to include commitments and actions."

The new wording also puts "love" at the center of all we UUs do, (though it's not clear which of the many definitions of love is being used.) The UUA board's charge said, "Our commitment to anti-racism, anti-oppression, and multiculturalism is love in action." Elsewhere, you'll find references to 'liberating Love,' with a capital L.

Opponents of the changes, like **retired Arizona State University Professor Anne Schneider**, believe they move UUism away from "spiritual development, meaningfulness, love, and gratitude to becoming a social justice organization." She worries a central authority could prescribe how social justice work must be done, rather than allowing individuals and congregations to decide for themselves. The changes, she believes, open the door for an outside authority to declare a congregation "out of covenant" for failing to meet any number of the new commitments, and seek to impose consequences.

Others believe the new language weakens the protections for freedom of belief and the right of conscience. They see UUism becoming an environment where an individual's views can be suppressed by someone claiming "harm" from merely being exposed to disagreement.

Given changes like these, Prof. Schneider worries that UUism "will become a hierarchy like other religions."

We are still working out the Town Hall format, including information sources and presenters. If you have ideas, get in touch (email: **president**). Your UCWC leaders are committed to have a balanced and civil discussion, so please plan to attend.

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Stewardship Update



If you have already made your pledge to UCWC for the upcoming year, **thank you!** If you haven't yet, please make your pledge as soon as possible, so our finance folks can create a budget that our members can approve at our June meeting.

You can go to **ucwc.org/pledge** for pledging guidance and to pledge online. Or you can mail in a printed pledge form. **Your pledge matters.** If you have questions or have never made a pledge before, contact email: **stewardship**.

We will conclude our stewardship campaign with an outdoor service and celebration picnic on Sunday, May 7, at East Goshen Park. The service starts at 10:00 am with the potluck picnic following at 11:30 am. Everyone is welcome. Sandwiches from the renowned Hank's Place will be provided. Bring your own beverage and a side dish or dessert to share. Musical instruments are also welcome.

Lifespan Faith Development

We Need RE Teachers



As one example of how you can get involved and offer your time and talents to UCWC, I would ask that you consider becoming an RE teacher working with our children and youth. We have been working with a handful of very dedicated volunteers who show up and give of themselves week after week, and they need help.

We have always relied on parents to help in our programs, but they need to know we stand by and with them in support. Our children want to be here learning with friends, we want to offer them programs they will enjoy, and we want to give them the affirmation and attention they deserve. But we can't do this without you.

Reflections: Religious Education Update

Stewardship. When you hear that word the first thing that probably comes up is money. But if we back up and look at the definition, stewardship means caring for something. When you volunteer your time, talents, and treasures, you are contributing to its care and keeping.

This month, as you assess what you can do to help build our UCWC community, I would like you to consider what Stewardship – caring for something – means in relation to our religious education (RE) programs.

Who is supposed to care for RE?

What does it mean to care about RE?

What does it mean to contribute to the care of RE?

As a congregation, we have promoted our RE programs as important and integral to who we are as UUs and to our community in particular. As Unitarian Universalists we lift up knowledge and education, we espouse reason and logic, we study science, we explore mysteries, we wonder about the universe, and we search for truth and meaning.

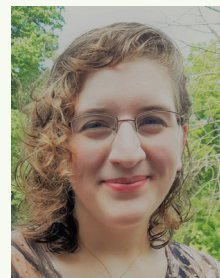
As UUs we believe in bending the arc of the universe towards justice, and in investing in our youth to build up new changemakers. As UUs, we want everyone to recognize their inherent worth and dignity, and to feel included and welcomed.

If these are things we want, what are we willing to do? What are our “towards moves”? How do we actualize our values, so they are no longer just dreams?

Through Stewardship.

We need you. We need you to bring your whole self – beauty and flaws. We need your minds – each unique, seeing the world differently, approaching life with your own interests and ideas. We need your presence to stand by one another, to lift up your hands and to use your voices. Our stewardship, of our congregation, of our RE programs, needs you.

What will you do?



— Cassie Lengel
email: **DLFD**

“Explorations”

A Program for Beginning and Deepening Our UU Journeys

We are so excited to be running this program for our members and new folks to get to know one another. Explorations is a small-group style program with guided readings and discussion questions to explore 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 MacFadyen, and will meet on March 30, April 6, April 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.

Wanted: UCWC Voting Delegates to UUA General Assembly

Some big decisions about the future of Unitarian Universalism will be considered at **this year's General Assembly, June 21-25**, online or in-person in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. (**For more on those big decisions, see elsewhere in this issue**). While anyone can pay the registration fee and attend GA as an individual, UCWC is entitled to send four members as official voting delegates.

Traditionally, the UCWC board has allocated our GA voting slots on a first-come, first-served basis. This year, the board wishes to ensure our voting delegation represents a balance of perspectives on the major questions arising at GA.

Interested in being a voting delegate for UCWC? You wouldn't have to travel to Pittsburgh — you can be a "virtual" voting delegate, **at low or no-cost**. Send a short note to the board (email: **board**) stating why you would like to attend and how you would approach representing our congregation at GA.



Spiritual Practices

Join us beginning April 12 and April 26 — the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month — at 7:00 pm via Zoom 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 invitational for newcomers, though the more sessions you can attend the better the support we can cultivate. For more information, contact Robin Garrett or Cassie Lengel, email **Adult-RE**.

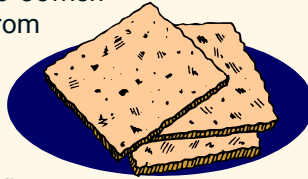
Passover Seder

Wednesday April 5, 6-8 pm

We are thrilled to announce the return of the Passover Seder. Passover is the Jewish remembrance of the exodus from Egypt and a time to celebrate freedom and bring our attention to justice-making in the world. We will celebrate Passover with an intergenerational Seder on Wednesday, April 5, at 6 pm in the sanctuary. Our Seder will be followed by a potluck — please come and enjoy. All ages are welcome, and you do not need to have any experience with a Passover Seder to enjoy this one.

Please RSVP and sign up to help set up, bring food (Kosher for Passover is ideal), or clean up — Signup online by clicking **here**, or write to Lauren Kelly (email: **fun**).

As a reminder, we can provide street parking passes for attendees, and we are permitted to use the West Chester public works lot on Lacey Street, two blocks east of the congregation. (Go all the way up Matlack, follow the road to the right, turn right on Lacey, then right into the parking lot. It is a three-minute walk to the congregation.)



Town Hall April 23



At this year's UUA General Assembly in late June, delegates will consider a complete rewrite of the foundational statements of our shared faith. Those statements reside in Article 2 of our UUA bylaws. You may know them as The Seven Principles and Six Sources.

We plan a town hall after the service on April 23 where differing perspectives on the proposed new statement of values and principles will be offered, followed by questions and discussion.

For some background on the issues and concerns being considered, see Board President Matt Zencey's message on page 3.

We are still working out the format, information sources, and presenters. If you have ideas, get in touch (email: **president**). Your UCWC leaders are committed to have a balanced and civil discussion, so please plan to attend.

Pastoral Care

The **Pastoral Care Team** contact for this month is **Sheila Grant**.



Calling All Newcomers!

Path to Membership

Sunday, April 2, at 1 pm on Zoom

Are you thinking about membership at UCWC? Our single session Path to Membership class is a great way to learn more about our congregation and what membership is all about. Newcomers are encouraged to attend — reach out to Rev. Dan at email: **minister** for more information. The link will be at **ucwc.org/zoom**. If you are interested in membership but unable to attend, just email Rev. Dan.

In addition, you can still join Explorations for our upcoming sessions. 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. Our next sessions are on March 30, April 6, April 20, and May 4. Contact email: **DLFD** to RSVP or learn more.

An Earth Day for the Whole Family

Sat • Apr 22 • 1 pm



The Unitarian Congregation of West Chester is proud to co-sponsor West Chester's Earth Day celebrations, along with the West Chester Green team and other organizations. This year's theme is Earth Day Birthday, and there will be special programs for children.

The afternoon will begin at 1:00 pm with a rally at the courthouse steps, with speakers and musicians including Rev. Dan, followed by a march down High Street to our congregation, which will host an eco-fair with various organizations from the community.

There will be a story reader, activities, tables, snacks from the West Chester Food Coop, a repair café (why throw something away if it can be fixed?) and much more.

Adult RE

Coming This Fall (Date and Time TBD). "Green Burial: The Solution is Here," presented by Friends of Green Burial PA. If you can't wait for them to present to us at UCWC, you are welcome to join in their presentation being given Thursday, April 20, at 7:00 pm at the Narberth Library. An online option is available by calling the library at 610-664-2878 in advance for the meeting link.

Men's Group



The UCWC Men's Group will meet virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, April 4, at 7:00 pm. Bob Stein will lead a discussion, "A book/song/movie/art that had a significant impact on your life." 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**.

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**.

Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

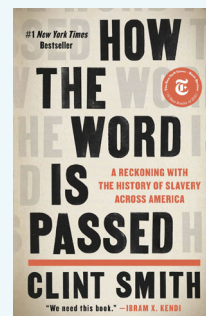
Each event, each action is another stone in the wall of social justice.

Diversity Book Group

April 16 7:00-8:30 Zoom Led by Julianne O'Neil

***How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America* by Clint Smith.** Starting with his home in New Orleans, Clint Smith leads the reader through an unforgettable tour of monuments and landmarks — some honest about the past and some not — offering an intergenerational story of slavery's influence in shaping our nation's collective history and who we are.

A deeply researched and transporting study of slavery's legacy and imprint on American history, *How the Word Is Passed* illustrates how some of our country's most essential stories are hidden in plain view - in places we might drive by going to work, holidays like Juneteenth, or entire neighborhoods — like downtown Manhattan — on which the brutal history of the trade in enslaved men, women and children has been deeply imprinted.



Gun Safety

A group of four UCWC members acting in conjunction with UUJusticePA traveled to Harrisburg on March 23 for Gun Violence Prevention Advocacy Day. CeaseFirePA organized the event coordinating with the student group, March for Our Lives, which commemorated the fifth anniversary of their March on Washington after the Parkland school shooting in Florida.



Around 500 gun safety advocates gathered to meet with State Representatives and State Senators, rally on the Capitol steps, and listen in on an open House Judiciary Committee session on the problem of gun violence and how to stem it.

Gerry Geiss, Edith Templeton, Susan Batchelor, and Tom Buglio were invigorated by the day, and encouraged that serious action on the scourge of gun violence is being taken up in Harrisburg. To join the monthly Zoom meetings on gun violence prevention, contact Tom at email: gun-safety.

Intergenerational Afternoon of Fun and Education on Reproductive Justice

Legislative Advocacy Role Play - Games - Banned Books - Snacks - Condom Art - Abortion Conversations

Saturday April 29 2:00-5:00 pm

Main Line Unitarian Church
816 S. Valley Forge Rd. in Devon

Admission: Period Products or Free Will Donation

Contact Susan Batchelor,
UCWC Reproductive Justice Liaison at email:
reproductive-justice.

Criminal Justice Reform

Looking ahead to June, we hope to have Lee and Dennis Horton as our guests for a Sunday service. In the meantime, we promise that you will find it very rewarding to take time to watch at least a portion of [this video conversation with them](#).

After 27 years of incarceration, Lee and Dennis received their second chance, leaving prison and returning to their families and community via clemency.

In the video they share their deep wisdom on giving people who are incarcerated the possibility of getting a second chance, on healing our communities, and their thoughtful and compelling perspectives on the men they left behind bars.

Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

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

Folk Singing

Our next get-together is Saturday, April 15, at 7:30 pm. We meet at the home of Linda and Steve Sander.

All COVID-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.

Please do one of the following:

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

Mar 30	Thu	Explorations. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 4.
Apr 2	Sun	Path to Membership. 1:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 6.
Apr 3	Mon	Racial Justice Working Group. 5:00 pm. Zoom. Contact Pam Sapko. Executive Committee. 7:00 pm. Zoom.
Apr 4	Tue	Men's Group. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 6.
Apr 5	Wed	Passover Seder. 6:00 pm. Sanctuary. See p. 5. Small Group Ministry Leaders Meeting. 7:00 pm.
Apr 6	Thu	Explorations. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 4.
Apr 10	Mon	Religious Services Committee. 7:00 pm.
Apr 11	Tue	Program Council. 7:00 pm. Zoom.
Apr 12	Wed	Spiritual Practices. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 5.
Apr 14	Fri	Family Game Night. 7:00 pm. Sanctuary.
Apr 15	Sat	Folk Singing. 7:30 pm. Home of Linda & Steve Sander. See left.
Apr 16	Sun	Share-the-Plate Sunday. Benefits Lenni Lenape Reparations. See Notes from Dan, p. 1. Diversity Book Group. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 7.
Apr 17	Mon	Racial Justice Working Group. 5:00 pm. Zoom. Contact Pam Sapko.
Apr 18	Tue	Board Meeting. 6:30 pm. Zoom.
Apr 20	Thu	Religious Education Committee. 7:00 pm. Explorations. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 4.
Apr 22	Sat	Earth Day. Activities begin at 1:00 pm at the courthouse steps. See p. 6.
Apr 23	Sun	Town Hall. After the service. See p. 5.
Apr 26	Wed	Spiritual Practices. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 5.
Apr 29	Sat	Weekend Writers Workshop. See March <i>Fellowtarian</i> , p. 5. Afternoon for Reproductive Justice. 2:00-5:00 pm. Main Line Unitarian Church. See p. 7.

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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