

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

August 2023

Guest Ministers During Rev. Dan's Sabbatical

While our Minister, Rev. Dan Schatz, is on sabbatical, we are excited to hear from a variety of Unitarian Universalist clergy.



August 6: Rev. Dave Hunter

Rev. Dave Hunter is a graduate of Princeton University, the Harvard Law School, and Wesley Theological Seminary. Prior to his ordination, he served the Civil Rights Division's Voting Section at the Department of Justice. Dave served churches in Maryland, New Jersey, Arkansas, and Pennsylvania.



August 27: Rev. Dr. Richard Speck

The Rev. Dr. Richard Speck is the retired District Executive for the Joseph Priestley District (JPD) of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. Previously, he served nine years as minister to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach, Florida.



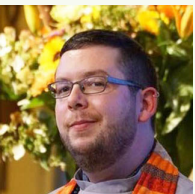
September 17: Rev. Sana Saeed

A graduate of Harvard Divinity School, and past President of Diverse Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM), Rev. Sana Saeed has been on the Congregational Life Staff for the Central East Region of the UUA since July.



September 24: Rev. Keith Goheen

Rev. Keith Goheen has served as chaplain at Beebe Healthcare in Lewes, Delaware, for 18 years. He has been in ministerial fellowship with the UUA since 1999 and is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek.



October 8: Rev. Kevin Jagoe

Rev. Kevin Jagoe serves BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Warrington, Pennsylvania, as their minister, and is Adjunct Faculty with the Humanist Studies Program of the American Humanist Association.



October 15: Rev. Meg Mathieson

Rev. Meg Mathieson serves as the minister of Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley in Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania, and is a candidate for a Doctorate of Ministry through the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California.

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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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.

August 6 10 am WILL YOUR ANCHOR HOLD? Rev. Dave Hunter

How does our UU faith sustain us in times of trial, when, for example, we walk through the valley of the shadow of death? See p. 1 for Rev. Hunter's bio.

August 13 10 am WHAT WILL YOU LEAVE BEHIND? Jen Feld and Kathy Beatty

As UUs and concerned citizens, we support the ideals of social, environmental, and financial sustainability and justice throughout our lives. But we may not realize that we can support these same ideals in death as well as life. Planning for the end of life can continue our meaningful contributions to our shared commitments that we hold dear.

Join UCWC members Jen Feld and Kathy Beatty as they share insights and ideas about what each of us can leave behind with forethought and planning. Jen Feld will also share her wonderful music with us during this service. We will also look at analyzing your journey to see what gave you joy in your life, and what you want to give back to.

August 20 10 am ON FAITH AND EQUITY Rev. Steve Wilson

The story of the good Samaritan sheds light on how compassion and equity are powerful forces that contribute to more loving and inclusive communities.

Rev. Steve Wilson is the Executive Director of the Coatesville-based non-profit Educational Equity Alliance (EEA). EEA is an international alliance of educational initiatives and thought leaders committed to seeing children and youth flourish and operates programs that address educational disparities in low-income communities.

August 27 10 am THE LIGHT OF CHANGE Rev. Dr. Richard Speck

I have been a fan of Holly Near for over forty years. But I didn't know that she was a lot more than a singer songwriter. We will examine her life and learn more about her including her social justice work. Come prepared to sing and learn. See p. 1 for Rev. Speck's bio.

Minister's Sabbatical

Rev. Dan will be on sabbatical from August 3 through October 21. During this time, he will be unavailable by email, phone, or text. Both our Office Administrator Maggie Christy and Director of Lifespan Faith Development Cassie Lengel will be able to get in touch with Dan in the event of a congregational emergency. In the event of a pastoral crisis, the lay pastoral care team will have a list of on-call UU ministers.

For regular pastoral support, please write to pastoral-care@ucwc.org. For questions about adult programs or children's religious education, please write to dldf@ucwc.org. For other questions, contact our Administrator at administrator@ucwc.org or the Executive Team at executive-team@ucwc.org.

While our Minister, Rev. Dan Schatz, is on sabbatical, we are excited to hear from a variety of Unitarian Universalist clergy.

From the President

This is my first month as president of the Board of Trustees. So far it seems pretty easy. OK, the Board didn't meet in July, Dan is away, we are in summer mode, and I was out for a bit due to a medical problem. Maybe not a fair evaluation of the position.

To serve in any leadership position at UCWC is an honor and part of my spiritual life and journey which started when I first attended a UU service in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 45 years ago. Perhaps I should devote this month to telling you a few things about me. As many of you know, I like to laugh and joke around, often with a very straight delivery. It's harder to do when writing, so if you read something that sounds funny, just assume it was meant to be.

I've been with this congregation for over 30 years and have seen how resilient this congregation can be with all the challenges we have faced in that time. I've taught several classes in RE over the years, was co-chair of the Stewardship Committee for many years, co-chair of the Social Justice Committee, served on two search committees for a minister, served on

the volunteer staff at a week-long leadership training held by a joint effort of several regional offices and, of course, was one of several auctioneers at our annual service auction. Like many of you, my identity is linked to Unitarian Universalism.

I have spent my entire professional life working with adults who have intellectual and other disabilities, developing clinical plans to support healthy and adaptive behavior. I spend a lot of time facilitating thinking in the teams of support people I work with. I was also an administrator of a human service program many years ago and attended an innovative course of study in non-profit management through a joint effort by the Wharton School and St. Joseph's University. Despite all of that, I have no idea what I am doing. Luckily, I have some great board members to rely on. And so it goes.

— Ed Cohle



Lifespan Faith Development

finding time to rest and ready yourselves for a new year of intentional community building here at UCWC. Our Religious Education Committee is especially excited to announce that our theme for this year is going to be "Open hearts, Open minds."

As Unitarian Universalists, we pride ourselves on being an open community where you can be who you are and believe what is important to you. We hold these values close, and when we fall short of living into our best selves, we know that these values are our guiding stars to get up and try again.

This year we have many areas of deep growth that we have already started and are focused on ahead of us. We ended our year earlier this summer with a lot of changes happening within our congregation and questions of what would come next here and in the UUA.

This fall we are coming back and promoting openness, knowing that nothing is set in stone and that we continue to try to become our best community

Somehow, we already find ourselves back in August, and I hope you've all been

REflections: Religious Education Update

together in the only way we know how — covenant. If our values are our guiding stars, our covenants are the maps we use to travel there. Here are a few of the paths we are following:

- We are working to renew our Welcoming Congregation status, creating welcome and exploring new understandings of the LGBTQIA+ community.
- We are continuing to explore the proposed changes to UUA's Article II, which changes the language of our values and principles as we reexamine how our faith relates to our current times.
- We are gathering in our classes for children and adults to learn about world religions, interact with our neighboring faiths, and to build relationships of trust and understanding.

We have a lot on our plates for this year, but when we root ourselves in our mission to grow, love, and serve together, we know that we can and are already on the path towards our goals.

— Cassie Lengel, email: DLFD



Adult RE

Areas of Interest

To our adults of all ages, we invite you to fill out **the following short survey** to help us decide how best to meet your needs. What interests you? How and when would you prefer to meet? Do you like any of the suggested topics listed? How would you like to participate in Adult RE here at UCWC?

Your responses help us plan what events we should run for the upcoming year and how to best include you. Got other ideas? We'd love to hear them. We would appreciate receiving your responses as soon as possible but no later than August 22, so that we can take time to plan interesting sessions for you.

RE Ice Cream Socials

Each summer our congregation's families and children, members and friends, gather to enjoy some sweet treats to beat the heat.

Join us at 7:00 pm at West Goshen Park at the playground and pavilion Thursday, August 17. If you have trouble finding us, please call/text/email so we can connect you.

We will provide ice cream and will offer vegan, low sugar, peanut free, and a variety of options to enjoy. Contact email: **RE** with any questions.

Learn About Teaching RE Retreat

Calling all folks who are current, previous, and potentially interested RE Teachers. We want YOU to join us for a teacher retreat this August 26 from about 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. We want to celebrate your unique gifts and grow together as a teaching team.

There will be food, activities, group conversations, and some basic knowledge about what you need to know about RE. You do not need to have any experience, nor do you need your clearances just yet — we want you to just come and have your cup filled as a teacher so this can meet your spiritual needs and so you feel prepared to sign up and/or take on another year. Please RSVP to email: **DLFD** so we know how to plan.

Welcoming Congregation Status Renewal

We are very excited to be looking again at our status as a Welcoming Congregation here at UCWC. We will spend time this upcoming year updating our understanding of LGBTQIA+ issues, learning new language, practicing new strategies for welcome, worshipping together, and creating a safer and braver space in our community. If you would like to join a group to help make this possible, please reach out to email: **DLFD**.

Neighboring Faiths

This year our RE Classes are going to embrace the theme of openness by learning about and experiencing world religions. This is one of our classic RE offerings and involves time in the classroom, time for activities, and time to visit/speak with people from other faith communities. We are looking for a dedicated team of teachers who can help us lead this group. Let us know if this interests you at email: **RE**.



Signup to Be a Guest Star

This year we are inviting our High School Youth Group to join us on a quest for friendship and teamwork as we enter the world of Dungeons and Dragons. Each youth will have the opportunity to roll and design a character to role play as we encounter different scenarios and make decisions as a group.

We would LOVE to have our adults get involved. If you are familiar with DnD or roleplaying games and would like to help run parts of a campaign, please reach out. We also invite everyone to complete their clearances so you can star as a guest appearance — whether as a simple shopkeeper or perhaps even the big bad villain. For more information, please contact email: **DLFD**.

Coming in September: Ingathering Service and RE Classes

Get ready to kick things off on Sunday, September 10, for our Ingathering Service and then Sunday, September 17, for our first day of RE classes.



Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

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

Disrupt the Corrupt Summer Tour

UCWC members are doing lobbying work this summer in coordination with UUJusticePA and March on Harrisburg, a non-partisan group dedicated to improving democracy in Pennsylvania. The goal is to get the Gift Ban Bill, HB484, passed in the House. The bill will prevent House members from taking gifts of hotel rooms, sports tickets, etc., from lobbyists. Pennsylvania is one of the few states that permits this form of legalized bribery.

Jack Butler, Susan Batchelor, Craig Talbot, Roseanne Bennett, and Tom Buglio have had several meetings with our local representatives, resulting so far in Reps Chris Pielli, Melissa Shusterman, Kristine Howard, and Christina Sappey becoming cosponsors of the bill. Our goal is to get all nine Chester County Reps on board and have them convince House leadership to bring the bill up for a vote this fall.

The lobbying gives citizens a chance to establish a relationship with their representatives and practice “small d” democracy. We will keep you up to date on our progress working for a better democracy.

— Tom Buglio



UUJusticePA
Unitarian Universalist Justice Pennsylvania

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 August 20 (third Sunday of the month), The Chester County Foodbank.

The Chester County Foodbank is the central hunger relief organization serving more than 120 partner agencies in Chester County. Through their network of food cupboards, hot meal sites, shelters, and other social service organizations, they distribute over 3 million pounds of food to residents with limited access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food. The Chester County Foodbank is much more than a food distribution center. They also sponsor a number of programs to address food insecurity, including Fresh2You Mobile Market, Raised Bed Gardens, and Eat Fresh.

Please note the following as you prepare your donation:

- All checks should be payable to “UCWC”.
- Checks with memo “All to charity” or similar go to the charity. Clearest is “All to [charity name]”.
- Checks with memo “plate”, “donation”, “STP”, or “share the plate” are split 50/50. Clearest is “STP 50/50”.
- All other checks go 100% to UCWC, unless otherwise indicated.

Thank you for your generosity to the June recipient, West Chester Food Cupboard, in the amount of \$585.



Call for Share the Plate Nominations

The Social Justice Committee will choose the 2023-2024 Share the Plate recipients in August and would like to invite nominations for organizations to support. If you would like to nominate an organization, please request a form by emailing Emily Sweet at email: share-the-plate. The deadline for nominations is Monday, August 7.

Recipients should be local Chester County groups that help people in the area. Preference is given to small, local organizations that do not have large amounts of funds from government or other sources to sustain them.

If you have nominated an organization in previous years, please re-submit a nomination form to update the information and re-affirm your desire to nominate the organization.

UCWC



CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM Team

The UCWC Criminal Justice team encourages all to read **"Ex-Prisoners Face Headwinds as Job Seekers, Even as Openings Abound"** by Talmon J. Smith, in the July 6 *New York Times*. It illuminates the reasons formerly incarcerated people have difficulty in finding a job after release from prison, and also discusses various strategies that are or could be used to assist them in their transition. This information can assist us all in advocating for the formerly incarcerated so that they can lead better lives.

If the link above does not work, contact email: **criminal-justice** or Diane Maguire, a member of our team, who will help you get access.

Additionally, we are excited to share the news that Chester County is developing a strategic plan for a county-wide re-entry coalition to maximize our county's effectiveness in addressing problems and barriers such as those discussed in this article. More news of that to come in the fall including ways we as a congregation can be part of the efforts.



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.

If you are interested in joining a group, please write to email: **SGM**.

Diversity Book Group

Sun, Aug 13 7:00-8:30 pm Zoom

Film: *The Hate U Give*

(based on the novel by Angie Thomas)

After witnessing her friend's death at the hands of a police officer, Starr Carter's life is complicated when the police and a local drug lord try to intimidate her in an effort to learn what happened the night Khalil died.

Based on an actual police shooting, Thomas's 2017 young adult debut novel was a Goodreads choice and a New York Times bestseller. *The Hate U Give* won the Printz award and was banned in the curriculum of some schools. Watch on your own or in groups before the meeting.



UUSC Update

UUSC (our **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee**) is expanding staff and working through the UU@UN Office—a joint effort between UUSC and the UUA—to enhance our effectiveness at the United Nations on the issues of climate and disaster justice, migration justice, and international justice and accountability. We aim to grow the advocacy we've been doing in response to our partners' needs.

We are working to:

- Build progressive faith power within civil society coalitions
- Mobilize congregations and progressive religious people
- Influence diplomatic negotiations and the development of international protocols and norms
- Hold governments and corporations accountable, and advance justice



We look forward to continuing this journey together and realizing concrete wins for the communities who are most impacted by injustice.

Learn more about UUSC [here](#), and support UUSC's work for UU values around the world. Any donation makes you a proud member.

Thank you.



Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

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

A Musical Happening...

...occurred July 12 as we kicked off an incredible five-day AUUMM Annual Conference and Songleaders Convergence in Baltimore. AUUMM is the acronym for the Association for Unitarian Universalist Musician Ministries. I have attended these conferences many times, and I have always come away inspired, with new music and connections.

The theme this year was Re-build, Revision, and Reconnect. UU Music leaders from around the country came seeking rejuvenation and support as they deal with the ongoing demands of creating and streaming music in hybrid services in the aftermath of the lockdown and leading protest songs and chants. There was an emphasis on good self-care, worship, congregational singing, and future trends. Our recently elected UUA President, Rev. Dr. Sofia Bentencourt, an AUUMM member, was present.

A new virtual hymnal is being developed that will be available within a few years. It will have a variety of styles of music that will reflect our faith and will speak directly to the context we now live in. I was honored to direct my anthem "We Come Together" at the closing worship. If you enjoy music, consider attending next year.

— Abby McGillivray

Aug 1	Tue	Criminal Justice Reform Team. 4:30 pm. See p. 6.
Aug 7	Mon	Racial Justice Ministry. 5:00 pm. Zoom. Contact Pam Sapko for more information.
		Deadline for Share the Plate nominations. See p. 5.
Aug 12	Sat	Folk Singing. 7:30 pm. Home of Linda & Steve Sander. See below.
Aug 13	Sun	Diversity Book Group. 7:00-8:30 pm. Zoom. See p. 6.
Aug 14	Mon	Religious Services Committee. 7:00 pm.
Aug 15	Tue	Religious Education Committee. 4:00 pm.
Aug 17	Thu	Ice Cream Social. 7:00 pm. West Goshen Park. See p. 4.
Aug 20	Sun	Share the Plate Sunday. Benefits the Chester County Food Bank. See p. 5.
Aug 21	Mon	Racial Justice Ministry. 5:00 pm. Zoom. Contact Pam Sapko for more information.
Aug 22	Tue	UUJusticePA Gun Violence Prevention Meeting. 7:00 pm. Zoom.
		Deadline for Adult RE Suggestions. See p. 4.
Aug 26	Sat	Teaching RE Retreat. 10:00 am-2:00 pm. See p. 4.

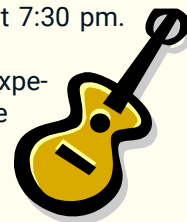
EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:

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 for dates and email: SGM for available dates and times. See p. 6.

Folk Singing

Our next get-together is Saturday, August 12, at 7:30 pm. We meet at the home of Linda and Steve Sander.

All vaccinated adults are welcome. No 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. **Masks/testing are no longer required.**



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

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