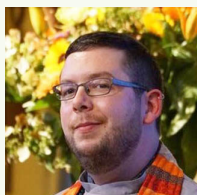


THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

October 2023

Guest Ministers During Rev. Dan's Sabbatical



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 Note from Dan

I am looking forward to joining with you all again at the end of October. For the past month and a half, I've spent nearly every day working on multiple recording projects. It's been a gentle and renewing time, and I've been very grateful for the opportunity. At the same time, I've missed being with you as the Fall begins, meeting newcomers, and seeing all our kids. I can't wait to see you at the auction on October 28 and our service the following morning.

In the meantime, I hope you will continue to hold one another in love and connection. May this time be as creative, gentle, and renewing for each of you — and for all of you together — as it has been for me.

Warmly, Dan

While Rev. Dan Is on Sabbatical...

Rev. Dan will be on sabbatical 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 email: [pastoral-care](mailto:pastoral-care@ucwc.org). For questions about adult programs or children's religious education, please write to email: [DLFD](mailto:DLFD@ucwc.org). For other questions, contact our Administrator at [administrator](mailto:administrator@ucwc.org) or the Executive Team at [executive-team](mailto:executive-team@ucwc.org).



A Welcoming
Congregation

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

Sunday Services

Religious Education
and Babysitting
Sundays at 10:00 am



*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.*

October 1 10 am
Ruch,

**VISUAL ARTS AS A
SPIRITUAL PRACTICE**

**Dianne Herrin, Lisa
and Rick London**

Cultivating the arts as a spiritual practice is one way to free our imaginations and develop valuable skills for vital living in the world. Art in its many forms – whether sung, sculpted, built, painted, or danced – has been part of worship and devotion for millennia.

Any art form can be a way to meditate, reflect, and cultivate a relationship with something beyond our “small” selves into a sacred space. Join UCWC members and artists Dianne Herrin, Lisa Ruch, and Rick London as they share their artwork work and passion with us.

October 8 10 am AN UNEXPECTED OASIS Rev. Kevin Jagoe

In our current religious, political, and social landscape it can be challenging to create or find places that are safe. In our covenantal tradition, the very act of gathering together is a religious and holy one. How do we create a community that can act as an oasis in our fractured world?

See front page to learn about Rev. Jagoe.

October 15 10 am LAUGHTER AS PRAYER Rev. Meg Mathieson

Unitarian Universalists are encouraged to define prayer in increasingly expansive and imaginative ways. Today, join us for a service of levity as we explore the ways that we UUs find humor in the world and turn laughter into prayer.

See front page to learn about Rev. Mathieson.

**October 22 10 am DEATH AND THE
MIDNIGHT PHONE CALL Michael Werner**

A particularly challenging aspect of aging is the midnight phone call, that telephone call that shakes you out of a deep sleep and which transmits the unfortunate news that someone close to you has just died. You are fortunate if you have never received such a call. Don't be too complacent. You are on someone's call list. Or, perhaps, you must make that call.

What thoughts went through your mind in the brief moments between the phone ringing and your answer? Did you hear what the caller was saying? If you were the caller, how did you prepare for making the call? In this service, Michael's fifth service on death, he will discuss the midnight calls he's received, and the midnight calls he has placed.

October 29 10 am STEPPING OUT Rev. Dan Schatz

At Halloween we depart from the norm, adults and children alike, trying on new faces and identities. As our Minister, Rev. Dan Schatz, returns from “stepping out” on sabbatical, he will explore some of the ways we can all step out from our everyday lives and into something new. Halloween costumes are welcome at this service.

MOST COLORFUL AUCTION

Saturday, October 28, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Ways to Participate. Wear a colorful costume, donate your talents, buy some books, buy a 50/50 raffle ticket, host a party at your house.

Costumes. Wear your most colorful outfit. It's time to break out of the doldrums and show your colors. Prizes for the best outfit will be given!

Hardcover Book Sale. If you have hardcover books either to read, or illustrated coffee table books, we will be selling them in a book sale. Hardcover in very good condition only, no paperbacks accepted.

Donations. We need PLENTY more donations. Donate your time, your talents, a weekend at your getaway cottage, gift cards to your favorite businesses. Donations can be dropped off in the Meditation Room near the name tags once you have registered them on the donation form. **DONATE HERE.**

NOTE: The deadline for having your donation in the catalog is Sunday, October 8. Donations received after that date will be in the addendum distributed the day before the auction.

Auction Catalog. You will receive a copy of the Auction catalog by email. Please bring it with you on Saturday October 28.

Silent Auction. There will be two Sunday in-person bidding days for the silent auction — October 15 and October 22 — both after the service and one online bidding night Thursday, October 26, from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm, using Google Sheets. Final silent auction bids will be taken on the night of the auction starting at 4:00 pm.

Live Auction. The funnest part of the night is live bidding to raise the most money for our congregation. In order to bid, you will need a paddle number. Sign up for one **here**. (Numbers have already been sent to those who bid last year.)

50/50 Raffle tickets. Don't miss your chance to give just a few dollars to get a chance to win half the proceeds of the raffle.

Proxy Bidding. If you cannot make the in-person auction, but want to place a bid, we have a few proxy bidders who can help. Contact email: **auction**.

Appetizers and Desserts. Our Most Colorful Auction will include a most colorful potluck. A Sign Up Genius page will be created shortly to help determine what delicious treats you will be bringing.

Music. Live acoustic guitar will be provided by our own Jim Nelson.



Available Again This Year: Jack and Alane Butler's Lake Harmony Vacation Home Two-Nights Getaway.

RAINBOW TEXT EFFECT BY ABDULARIS ON FREEPIK.COM

Committee on Ministry Gatherings

The Committee on Ministry will host two gatherings following the Sunday services on October 15 and 22. (Note that there will be auction items on display for you to see during coffee hour and while we are preparing for the meetings on those same dates.)

Committee on Ministry members will lead the October 15 meeting with the goal of enhancing conversations that were started in the spring by continuing open and direct communication with each other. All questions and comments are welcome, particularly those questions that remain related to the complex issues surrounding the resignation of our emerita minister. Other topics of discussion are also welcome.

Please note that there will be other meetings specifically focused to discuss Article 2 and 8th Principle.

Also please note that the October 22 meeting has changed since initial planning. We are still deliberating on how to proceed. Though there is a strong desire to move directly to a Listening Circle with hope to take more specific moves towards healing, there have also been some members who are unable to attend on October 15 and would prefer to participate in conversations before the Listening Circle.

Rev. Sans Saeed will not be joining us on October 22, but she is open to attending at a later date. The Committee on Ministry is keeping the planning for October 22 date fluid. We would love your input, and we encourage members and friends to contact us individually or at email: COM. Please share your thoughts with us.

Shelly Case
Jim MacFadyen
Emily Sweet



From the President

It's good to see people returning to our services in September. We've had some good guest ministers this past month. Religious education classes are starting up. The auction folks are going full speed ahead on the planning of that event in late October. Social justice activities have been made available.

There is something exciting about the activity that happens in September every year as families return from their vacations and in-person involvement resumes. The recent job fair gives you an idea of many of the moving parts that make this congregation an exciting place.



In preparation for the coming year, the Board held a mini retreat in August to talk about what we hope to accomplish this year. Of course, you know the saying, "The best laid plans of mice and men often go astray," but it is good to have a plan anyway. Hmmmm. Maybe that phrase should be more inclusive. How about "of mice and people".

We hope to review the bylaws this year and suggest if any changes or tweaks may be needed. It's a good idea to review our bylaws as we should keep them current to reflect the realistic structures and operation of the congregation since things tend to change over time.

The Board would also like to tackle some of the issues from last year that we just didn't have time to do because of unexpected demands on our time. We are looking towards filling some key committee chairs, resurrection of the membership committee and examining how we can support potential leaders for the future.

The Racial Justice Ministry sponsored a training entitled Difficult Conversations. One of the takeaways from the material presented is the importance of trying to understand the other person's point of view. Conversations about difficult issues are better served when each person tries to understand the other rather than trying to change the other. (This is a different type of approach than many of us tend to use. I know I can get opinionated at times, wanting to change the other person's point of view. This does not usually end well.) I think this concept will be useful in our conversations later this year concerning the proposed Article II changes to the UUA Bylaws.

Please join me in trying to change our interactions from trying to change the other to trying to understand the other's point of view. It will be hard to resist the way we typically argue each side of an issue before trying to understand each point of view.

There will be opportunities to further learn, try on, accept, reject, etc. the proposed Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association bylaws. This may happen sequentially, with chances to understand each point of view later in the process this year, and with opportunities for folks to express their viewpoints before voting happens at the next General Assembly (GA).

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

Men's Group

The Men's Group will meet in person on Tuesday, October 3, at 4:00 pm in the parking lot of Natural Land's Stroud Preserve at 454 North Creek Road to hike. Further details will follow via email. All men are welcome. If you are interested in participating but are not yet on the email distribution list, please reach out to Mark or Dirk at email: **mens-group**.



REflections Religious Education Update

"We need not think alike, to love alike." – Francis David

In our RE classes, we have spent the past few weeks learning what our RE theme, "Open Hearts, Open Minds," might mean. Words like *welcoming*, *listening*, and *loving* were brought up by the kids when they described what it means to be *open*. But we challenged them on this – what happens if we disagree? As children, their responses were about learning a different perspective, but as Unitarian Universalists we talked about how to listen openly AND disagree in love.

You could see their wheels turning as they thought through the implications – that it was important to really listen to understand, but then it is okay to decide what parts of your ideas and their differences you agree with or not.

The key to these discussions, as we practice every year in our RE classes and as we try to bring into our meetings and congregation as a whole – is covenant. When we gather together, we decide how we will act – which doesn't mean we have to believe the same things or have certain feelings one way or another. The covenant is our "how-to-do-Unitarian-Universalism" guide that helps us move step by step through conversations and actions.

Covenants are never perfect, but as our guides, we can add to them, pointing out where we got hurt, showing slippery pitfalls, warning of triggers, and helping to make the path a safer place. We need all of you adventurers to join us in the "doing" of Unitarian Universalism – creating living, changing covenants to show us how to open ourselves up and love alike.

Cassie Lengel Email: **DLFD**

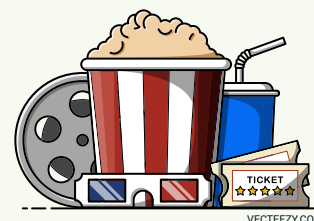


Come by West Chester Outfest

West Chester celebrates National Coming Out Month with a special festival on the afternoon of October 14 – with music, food, and folks to see. Our UCWC congregation will have a booth there as we spread the love with Kindness Rocks. So come on by and decorate one yourself. Or help us send them out into the world to spread a little joy.

Kids' Activity During the Auction: Movie Night

During our auction this year on October 28, we invite any and all children and youth who would like to join us as we build a comfy patch and enjoy a movie together. Come comfy in pajamas or bring stuffies to cuddle and we'll make the popcorn.



Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

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

Diversity Book Group

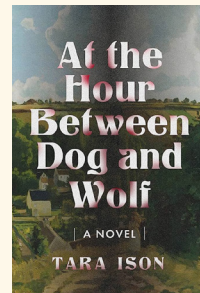
Sun, Oct 8 7:00-8:30 Zoom

Led by Pam Seres

***At the Hour Between Dog and Wolf* by Tara Ison**

This is the story of a young Jewish girl smuggled out of Paris in 1940 after the Germans marched in and into the southern French countryside to live in hiding with her parents' former housekeepers.

It's the story of people living under the Vichy government and of her transformation from a Jewish girl into a devout Catholic one. It depicts the confusion and changing allegiances of the population during the war years, some people siding with the Germans, some with the Allies, some with the Russians.



Putting Our UU Values in Action



At UCWC, we have an exciting opportunity to put our values into action. POWER Metro, a multi-racial, interfaith group dedicated to racial and economic justice on a livable planet, is asking us to gather like-minded folks to discuss why we care about these issues and explore how we can work together. The goal is to help build support for making Pennsylvania prosperous for everyone, no matter our race, economic status, gender, or geographic location.

Working with people of other faiths and races on a common project is a great way for us at UCWC to honor the pledge we make in our unison affirmation to "embrace diversity" and be "a catalyst for a just and compassionate world."

To discuss the possibilities, we welcome all interested members to join us at one of two introductory meetings: either Sunday, October 1, at 2:30 pm or the evening of Wednesday, October 18, at 7:00 pm. We hope you will join us. Please respond (yea or nay) to us at email POWERMetro. We'll provide meeting details once you let us know you plan to come.

— Matt Zencey, Robin Garrett, and Sandy Schaal

Criminal Justice Team

While the Criminal Justice Team is not holding regular meetings, we are accomplishing a lot communicating by email and meetings as needed. We are:

- Corresponding as pen pals with people who are currently incarcerated
- Working with other local organizations to ensure that eligible voters incarcerated at Chester County Prison will be able to vote in the November elections
- Participating in Chester County's Re-entry Coalition to ensure that people returning from prison can, like every other citizen, find employment, access stable housing, support their kids and families, and become active contributors to their communities
- Visiting with elderly inmates at SCI Chester (the state prison in Chester, PA)
- Lobbying the state legislature for passage of laws to reduce and ultimately eliminate Pennsylvania's drastically excessive rate of mass incarceration

Contact us at email: criminal-justice to learn more about any of the above.

Jubilee Three Anti-Racism Training



Join Us for a Life-Changing Weekend!

Fri • Oct 20 • 6:00 pm-9:00 pm
Sat • Oct 21 • 9:00 am-8:00pm
Sun • Oct 22 • noon-6:30 pm

- Presentations
- Discussions
- Video
- Exercises
- Small Group Work

\$170 • Contact racial-justice@ucwc.org for
Registration Info • Partial Scholarships • Children's Programming

A Community Experience:
Building Capacity to Dismantle Systemic Racism



UUSC Update

The incredible generosity of our members allows UUSC to build long-term, justice-based responses to crises like the war in Ukraine. Even if the war ends tomorrow, the people of Ukraine will still need support — more than 14 million people have already been displaced.

Consider committing to our long-term recovery efforts with a monthly donation to our **Emergency Response Fund** by visiting UUSC.ORG/ERF. Thank you for your trust in us to advance justice with a thoughtful, community-led approach. **WE NEED YOUR HELP. DONATE TODAY** To learn more about UUSC's partnerships, please read our Eyes on Eastern Europe series at uusc.org/ukraine.

SGM Brightens a Day

All of our Small Group Ministries are asked to engage in at least one service project a year. Our Tuesday afternoon group has discovered an especially rewarding project that brings sunshine into the lives of shut-ins who might not have regular visits from family or friends.

Working through "Brighten A Day," a 401 (c) (3) Foundation, we write cards four times a year to isolated residents of nursing homes, rehab centers, hospitals, and similar facilities. We supply our own notecards, which are addressed to "Dear Friend" and signed "Your Friend" and our first name. We speak about the changes of the seasons, holidays (where appropriate), and other positive subjects.

We set aside an hour or so after a regular SGM meeting for this activity and write about 100 cards per session. We have at times enclosed bookmarks or colorful stickers with them. They are placed in non-sealed envelopes.

"Brighten A Day" assigns the cards to a facility that can best make use of them. We mail the cards to that facility, where they are opened and read before distribution to be sure they go to the right persons.

Carolyn LaTulip, a member of our SGM, learned about "Brighten A Day" through an article in the *Daily Local News*. The organization, founded by a young Paoli woman, has been recognized by many other news outlets and has contacts with facilities across the country. Our last batch went to a nursing home/rehab center in Charlotte, North Carolina.

If you are interested in learning more, you can contact Carolyn at 843-290-5949 or Google **brighten-a-day.org**. This project has not only benefited the shut-ins — it has brought sunshine into our lives as well

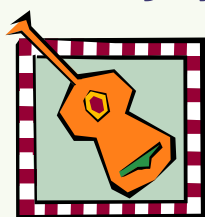
-- Flo Miller.

Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

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

Folk Singing



Our next get-together is Saturday, October 14, at 7:30 pm. We meet at the home of Linda and Steve Sander.

All vaccinated adults are welcome. No singing talent or experience is necessary, just a desire to have fun. (We are not a performance group.) 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.

- | | | |
|--------|-----|--|
| Oct 2 | Mon | Racial Justice Ministry. 5:00 pm. Zoom. Contact email: racial-justice for more information. |
| | | Executive Committee Meeting. 7:00 pm. |
| Oct 3 | Tue | Men's Group. 4:00 pm. Natural Land's Stroud Preserve. See p. 5. |
| Oct 4 | Wed | Small Group Ministry Leaders. 7:00 pm. |
| Oct 6 | Fri | Family Game Night. 7:00 pm. Sanctuary. |
| Oct 8 | Sun | Auction Preview. After the service. Sanctuary. See p. 3.
Diversity Book Group. 7:00-8:30 pm. Zoom. See p. 6.
Deadline for Having Your Auction Donation Included in the Catalog. See p. 3. |
| Oct 9 | Mon | Religious Services Committee. 7:00 pm. |
| Oct 10 | Tue | Council Meeting. 7:00 pm. |
| Oct 14 | Sat | Folk Singing. 7:30 pm. Home of Linda & Steve Sander. See p. 7. |
| Oct 15 | Sun | Share the Plate Sunday. Benefits Act in Faith of Greater West Chester.
Silent Auction Session. 11:00-11:45 am. Sanctuary. See p. 3.
Committee on Ministry Gathering. 11:45 am. Sanctuary. See p. 4. |
| Oct 16 | Mon | Racial Justice Ministry. 5:00 pm. Zoom. Contact email: racial-justice for more information. |
| Oct 17 | Tue | Board Meeting. 7:00 pm. |
| Oct 18 | Wed | UUJusticePA Reproductive Justice Meeting. 7:30 pm. Zoom. |
| Oct 22 | Sun | Silent Auction Session. 11:00-11:45 am. Sanctuary. See p. 3.
Committee on Ministry Gathering. 11:45 am. Sanctuary. See p. 4. |
| Oct 24 | Tue | UUJusticePA Gun Violence Prevention Meeting. 7:00 pm. Zoom. |
| Oct 26 | Thu | Online Silent Auction Session. 7:30-8:30 pm. See p. 3. |
| Oct 28 | Sat | Most Colorful Auction. 4:00 pm. See p. 3. |

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 availability. See p. 5.

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

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