

# THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

November 2023



## NOTES FROM REV. DAN

A couple of weeks ago my family and I took a walk by the Cheslen Preserve – one of our favorite spots for an afternoon ramble. It was a brisk day – one of the first this year that has truly felt like Autumn – and two small bluebirds flitted from tree to tree in the breeze. As one of them landed, we were startled by a cascade of walnuts. If we'd been a few feet closer, we might have gotten clobbered.

Now, a bluebird doesn't weigh very much – typically less than an ounce. But that extra weight, in exactly the right place, at exactly the right time, was just enough to shake loose those walnuts. Like the single snowflake that breaks a branch, one tiny and largely inconsequential creature changed everything. The bird itself seemed largely unconcerned.

The past few weeks have been hard for many of us. In the face of truly horrific atrocities and devastation, we don't always know what to say or do. My heart, like yours, aches with the trauma of Israelis and Palestinians, Jewish and Muslim communities that now feel threatened, and all who care about human decency and ending the cycles of hatred and bloodshed. It's easy to fall into a feeling of powerlessness in such times.

That's when we need to remember the bluebird. As small as we are – and in this world and universe we are all tiny – we still matter. You still matter. You make a difference in everything you touch. You don't have to be powerful, brilliant, or charismatic. You don't have

to know what to do or even what you're doing. You change the world simply by living in it.

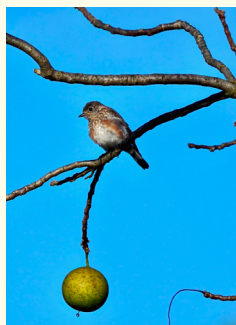
Bluebirds, I imagine, are largely creatures of instinct. Human beings are creatures of choice, and in this perilous moment in the world, each of us can be intentional in the choices we make. Who will we be? How will we live? We may not be in a position to drop everything and fly across the world, but we can create goodness in the communities we inhabit right now. Maybe that means reaching out to Jewish and Muslim friends who are feeling vulnerable and afraid or who have known personal losses in the last few weeks.

Maybe it means opening ourselves to mutual understanding. Maybe it simply means fostering some kindness around us, wherever we are.

The Unitarian Universalism I have known my entire life has always invited me to a life of love. Sometimes we've been more explicit about that than others, but it has always been there, and has only deepened in my heart as years and decades have gone by. I may not know what to do about the war in Israel and Gaza, or the state of things here in the United States, for that matter, but I do know that if I hold love at my center, I will not go too far wrong, and the difference I make will likely be for the good.

You may not be powerful, but neither are you powerless. When you open yourself to the core of your being, you will bless the world around you.

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](mailto:office@ucwc.org)  
[www.ucwc.org](http://www.ucwc.org)

## Sunday Services



*We gather, aspiring to be a thriving, caring, and welcoming community that supports each person's spiritual journey, embraces diversity, challenges us to live responsibly, and is a catalyst for a just and compassionate world.*

**November 5 10 am**

**ALL SOULS**

**Rev. Dan Schatz**

On All Souls Day we honor our ancestors, remember loved ones we have lost, and remember the dead. This special service will include a ritual of remembrance. All who come are invited to bring a photograph or a memento of someone you are remembering for the altar.

**November 12 10 am**

**DEEP BEING**

**Rev. Dan Schatz**

The human soul yearns for deep connection with all of life. In this season of Diwali, we explore lessons from Hinduism and other spiritual paths that teach profound connection with being.

**November 19 10 am**

**OUR LOVE FEAST  
ALL-AGES  
BREAD SERVICE**

**Rev. Dan Schatz,  
Cassie Lengel, and  
Miriam Davidson**

For this beloved all ages service, we invite all members and friends of our congregation to bring a kind of bread that represents your background or in some way describes you or your family. Together we will share the bread and the stories that come with it. Gluten-free bread is especially welcome so that everyone can participate in the bread communion.

*This special service will be followed by a soup and bread lunch.*

**November 26 10 am**

**COVENANT**

**Sandra Schaal**

The word "Covenant" has been used throughout the ages to denote a legal or sacred agreement. However this meaning may not be clear in today's world. Join UCWC member, Sandra Schaal, as she shares what "Covenant" can represent in our UCWC congregation in this present moment.

## From the President



As we begin to get into full swing this month, there is much to do. The board has identified the current lack of a membership committee as a key activity that we are committed to restarting. New people are visiting us, and we need to welcome them in a more organized manner. I have noticed that many of you will talk to new people attending services and are good ambassadors to welcome people. Thank you. I will be calling on some of you to get more involved. You can also contact me to get involved at email: [president](#).

Another new effort of the board will be assigning board members to follow and be knowledgeable

about specific committees in our congregation. We basically want to know and are interested in how things are going in all aspects of UCWC. We're not going to direct, interfere, or solve problems in these committees. (The Executive Committee can help with that.) We are going to touch base and learn about what committees are doing.

The board also previewed two videos made by our four General Assembly delegates to let the congregation know about the business part of GA and their personal opinions and observations based on their experiences. The links for these will be sent to all UCWC members once the drafts are finalized.

— Ed Cohle

## Lifespan Faith Development

### Guest At Your Table

Join us on November 19 at 10:00 am for our Intergenerational Bread Service as we pass out boxes for our Guest at Your Table donations. Learn more about those we work with in other countries and the social justice work they are doing. Set a place for them at your table through the holidays and collect your change, and of course you can always write a check. We will gather our donations come January.

## REflections: Religious Education Update

As we look ahead to the upcoming holidays, with Thanksgiving and Christmas well on their way, we enter this time of preparation. For some, the preparation is mental as you prepare to start seeing Christmas decorations earlier and earlier in the stores each year. For some, the preparation is emotional as you ready yourself, in anticipation or otherwise, to see family. For some, the preparation is physical as we prepare our homes for visitors, as we prepare our bodies for the colder and darker months ahead, and as we prepare our stomachs for lots of yummy treats. And for some, the preparation is spiritual as you ready yourself for the coming religious services and celebrations.

In RE this month, we are preparing for the upcoming holidays in the spirit of our theme for this year "Open Hearts, Open Minds." This year we are opening our hearts and our resources to share our blessings with each other and beyond. In RE we will learn about this year's "Guest at Your Table" representatives of their countries and the justice issues they are working towards.

Each fall we set a place for these guests in our homes, a reminder of their causes, and an invitation to share what we can. We'll also be collecting gifts for the "Adopt a Family" program providing gifts for families recovering from domestic violence so they too can enjoy Christmas.

I know it may seem early to begin preparing for the holidays, but when we enter this season of giving with the mindset of sharing our abundance, it shifts the narrative of the holidays to what is really important. Whether you have a little or a lot, we give what we can – from learning to praying to donating to advocating and more. I hope you'll join us in this season.

Cassie Lengel  
email: [DLFD](mailto:DLFD)



### 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 up the popcorn.

Refreshments and the silent auction begin at 4:00 pm; then at 5:00 pm we will gather downstairs until about 6:30ish when we will join in for the desserts.

### Adopt a Family for Christmas

We strive as Unitarian Universalists to work for justice and to offer others compassion, so we are proud to help sponsor a family's Christmas this year. The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County works to make the holidays brighter for survivors who are overburdened financially, as they work toward freeing themselves from the cycle of violence. All donations go directly to the family who, without the generosity of the donor, may not have been able to provide for themselves during the holiday season.

Beginning in November, we will receive the family's wish list. The collection usually takes place the first or second week of December to allow time for families to receive gifts and prepare for their holidays as well. More information will be coming in *Connections*.

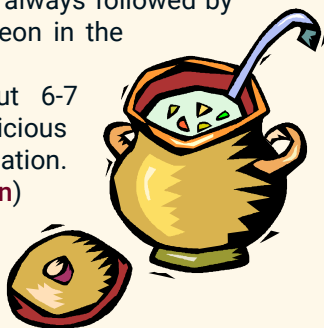
## November Is Here and Soup Is On

Let sweater weather and soup season commence! Sunday, November 19, is our annual Bread Communion Service. This popular service is always followed by a delicious soup potluck luncheon in the sanctuary.

We are looking for about 6-7 crockpots of your favorite, delicious soups to share with the congregation. Please let me know (email: **fun**) if you can bring in some soup, and what kind it may be — just so I have an idea of what to expect.

Looking forward to breaking bread with old friends, and if you are new to UCWC, please join us for this service. This is a great way to get to know us in a casual environment and enjoy some always delicious and soul warming soup.

Contact Lauren Kelly.



## 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**.

## Minister's Office Hours

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



## Fun & Fellowship

### Folk Singing

Our next get-together is Saturday, November 11 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.

Masks are no longer required for attendance.



## Men's Group

The UCWC Men's Group will meet in person on Tuesday, November 7, at Tilo Stahl's home for pizza and beer. 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**.





## Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

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

### 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.

### Transgender Day of Remembrance

Each year our congregation partners with community organizations to host a Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil. We will honor and share the names of transgender people who have lost their lives to violence in the past year and have an opportunity for conversation and sharing. The vigil will be at UCWC, **Monday, November 20, at 7:00 pm.**

### Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Guest At Your Table Kick-off Sunday, November 19

Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is UUSC's annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues around the world and what UUSC and its partners are doing to make a difference.

Collection boxes and *Stories of Hope* booklets will be passed out in the service. They provide a way for families to participate in the donation process and to get to know UUSC's partners and view issues through the stories of four people connected to those partners, as if sharing a meal together.

UUSC has over 60 **local partner organizations** around the world. This year's GAYT theme is, Pursuing Liberation.

The four partner organizations are:

- **Foundation for Justice and Democratic Rule of Law,**
- **National TPS (Temporary Protected Status) Alliance,**
- **ABJP (Alliance for Block Justice in Poland)**
- **PISFCC (Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change).**

Here are three ways to donate:

- Guest At Your Table Boxes: Please convert the money in the box to a check written to "UCWC" with "UUSC GAYT" in the memo line and put it in the plate on any Sunday.
- Donate **online.**
- Donate by mail: Please make checks out to "UUSC" with "GAYT" in the memo line, and address: UUSC, PO Box 808, Newark, NJ 07101-0808.

Note: If you donate directly to UUSC, please be sure to include that you are from the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester. We are aiming for 100% UUSC membership. Any donation makes you a proud member of UUSC.

GAYT gifts of \$150 or more are matched by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock.

If you miss the distribution on November 19, look for Pursuing Liberation collection boxes and donation envelopes in the lobby.

Thank you.

Wayne Bullaughey and Linda Sander

## Gun Violence Prevention Gun Violence Day of Action in Harrisburg

Join us with UUs and other faith groups from across Pennsylvania as we speak with one voice: Stop Gun Violence! A day of prayer and action is being organized by the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania with a gathering in Harrisburg on Wednesday, November 15. Please review the flyer below and contact Tom Buglio at email [gun-safety](mailto:gun-safety) if you are interested in participating. Tom is organizing a carpool for the local UU congregations.

You can register, for free, [here](https://diocesepa.org/saving-lives-ending-gun-violence/). What could be more UU than working with other faiths for a good cause?

DAYS OF PRAYER & ACTION

NOVEMBER 14 & 15, 2023

### Tuesday, November 14th

5:30 – 7:00 pm

Interfaith Prayer Service, St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral, 221 N Front St, Harrisburg, PA

### Wednesday, November 15th

7:30 am to 9:00 am

Interfaith Prayer Breakfast with Legislators

10:00 am to Noon

Advocacy Appointments with Legislators and staff

OR

10:00 am to Noon

Recitation of Names of the Lost on the Capitol Steps

12:15 pm to 1:15 pm

Lunch

1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Solemn Procession: Witness Walk around the Capitol Mourning the Victims of Gun Violence

3:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Press Conference in Capitol Rotunda

SAVING  
LIVES:  
ENDING GUN  
VIOLENCE

A block of discounted rooms has been reserved for Tuesday, November 14th, 2023 at the Penn Harris Hotel, 1150 Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill, PA 17011

<https://diocesepa.org/saving-lives-ending-gun-violence/>

## Diversity Book Group

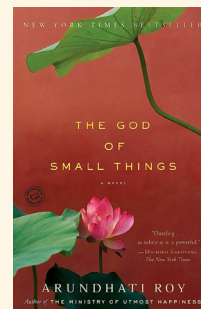
Sun, Nov 12

7:00-8:30 pm on Zoom

Led by Barb Crellin

*The God of Small Things*

by Arundhati Roy



A family drama novel, the story about the childhood experiences of fraternal twins in India whose lives are destroyed by the "Love Laws" prevalent in the 1960s. It explores how seemingly small incidents shape behavior and lives, as well as the effects of the caste system. Won the Booker prize.

### Note from Barb Crellin

The recollections of childhood resonate so powerfully, that it is scary. The pictures of India are sensuous and poetic. Sexuality and violence are described so vividly that I felt I lived and breathed in tandem with the characters. The societal evils of class, color, and colonialism are displayed in this book in the microcosm of the family.

# Calendar

All email addresses  
@ucwc.org

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



**Don't forget  
UUSC's  
Guest at  
Your Table  
Kickoff**



Nov 1	Wed	Small Group Ministry Leaders. 7:00 pm.
Nov 3	Fri	Family Game Night. 7:00 pm. Sanctuary.
Nov 5	Sun	Daylight Savings Time Ends. 2:00 am.
Nov 6	Mon	Racial Justice Ministry. 5:00 pm. Zoom. Contact email: <a href="#">racial-justice</a> for more information. Executive Committee Meeting. 7:00 pm.
Nov 7	Tue	Election Day. Vote your values. Men's Group. 7:00 pm. Tilo Stahl's Home. See p. 4.
Nov 11	Sat	Folk Singing. 7:30 pm. Home of Linda & Steve Sander. See p. 4.
Nov 12	Sun	Diversity Book Group. 7:00-8:30 pm. Zoom. See p. 6.
Nov 13	Mon	Religious Services Committee. 7:00 pm.
Nov 14	Tue	Council Meeting. 7:00 pm.
Nov 15	Wed	Gun Violence Day of Action in Harrisburg. See p. 6. UUJusticePA Reproductive Justice Meeting. 7:30 pm. Zoom.
Nov 19	Sun	Guest at Your Table Kickoff. See p. 5. Share the Plate Sunday. Benefits The Baby Food Fund. Soup and Bread. After the service. See p. 4.
Nov 20	Mon	Racial Justice Ministry. 5:00 pm. Zoom. Contact email: <a href="#">racial-justice</a> for more information. Transgender Day of Remembrance. 7:00 pm. UCWC. See p. 5.
Nov 21	Tue	Board Meeting. 7:00 pm.
Nov 23	Thu	Thanksgiving.
Nov 26	Sun	Christmas Decorating Day. Noon.
Nov 28	Tue	UUJusticePA Gun Violence Prevention Meeting. 7:00 pm. Zoom.

## EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:

Most Thursdays	Spirit Singers Practice. at 7:30 pm. For specific dates, contact Miriam Davidson, email: <a href="#">choir</a> .
Various Dates	Small Group Ministry (Several Active Groups). See <a href="#">web calendar</a> for dates. Contact email: <a href="#">SGM</a> for availability. See p. 4.

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

501 South High Street  
West Chester, PA 19382

Web: [www.ucwc.org](http://www.ucwc.org)  
All email addresses @ucwc.org

Rev. Daniel Schatz, Minister ..... 610-692-4043 ..... email: [minister](#)  
Maggie Christy, Office Administrator ..... 610-692-5966 ..... email: [office](#)  
Ed Cohle, President ..... email: [president](#)  
Cassie Lengel, Director of Lifespan Faith Development ..... email: [DLFD](#)  
Steve and Linda Sander, *The Fellowtarian* Editors ..... email: [fellowtarian](#)