

# THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

February 2024



## NOTES FROM REV. DAN

My computer has a new trick. Sometimes, when you hover over a picture and press the “command” key, a giant description pops up. It’s pretty impressive and even owns up to its uncertainty, a rarity in the tech world. Still, the captions it creates leave some things to be desired. When I tried it out on a selfie, the words “May be an image of 1 person and beard” appeared across the bottom of my screen.

I mean, it wasn’t wrong. I just never thought of myself as having the kind of beard with independent entity status.

As silly as it was, it also got me thinking. When I looked at the caption, for just an instant, I saw myself (and the beard) differently. The habits of observation I had developed over a lifetime were, in a small way, suddenly upended. What would it be like to look at everything like that? Instead

*When we open our awareness to new ways of living in the familiar, we offer ourselves to the world.*

of cardinal on a spruce bough, maybe we’d see “red bird and feathers with pine needles” — all the component parts laid out for us, to find our own ways to put together. Or maybe we’d do it the other way around — “May be an image of holiness.”

If we drop our mental shortcuts for just a few minutes, what might we begin to see, hear, or experience for the first time? What would we notice about our family, friends, or our community? How would music change for us?

How might we become more open to new points of view? What could we learn about the sacred? What could we learn about ourselves?

Mary Oliver famously said that, “the world offers itself to your imagination.” When we open our awareness to new ways of living in the familiar, we offer ourselves to the world.

“May be an image of love.”

In faith, Dan

## Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Care Team is updating their Helping Hands list. We use this list when we are seeking help for members/friends of UCWC who are in need of help. The team uses the list to fill requests for meals, rides, visits, etc.

If you would like to be added to the list, please contact us at email: [pastoral-](mailto:pastoral-care@ucwc.org)



[care](mailto:pastoral-care@ucwc.org). If you have been on the Helping Hands list, you received an email in the last two weeks asking if you would like to remain on the list, and you do not need to send another email.

Thank you to all those who responded.

## 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

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.*

**February 4 10 am GIFTS OF SPIRIT Rev. Dan Schatz**

There are many ways to give to the world, most of which have little to do with money. How does generosity of spirit sow hope and gratitude in our lives?

**February 11 10 am HOT CHOCOLATE Rev. Dan Schatz and Cassie Lengel**

In this midwinter all ages service, we will celebrate the warmth we bring to each other and the ways we find love and comfort in community. This service will be followed by our annual Feast of Decadent Chocolate! We invite you to bring your favorite chocolate concoctions – preferably using fair trade chocolate – or simply come and enjoy the chocolate decadence.

**February 18 10 am A CURIOSITY ABOUT THIS THING CALLED AGING Lauren Fritz**

We will explore together the phenomenon of aging, not just as it happens during our elderly years, but as it occurs within each one of us, each day, every moment. We'll visit different vantage points of this state of change that we apparently have no choice but to experience, if we are so fortunate to experience it at all. Prepare to feel appreciation for yourself.

Lauren Fritz MA ATR-BC, LPC is a grief and trauma therapist in private practice. She has been a licensed professional counselor and an art therapist for over 27 years. She focuses much of her work on resilience and perspective-shifting when things happen beyond one's planning or control. Lauren is also the mother of two young men who have Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. She is a vocal mental health advocate for disability rights. Lauren is a life-long Unitarian Universalist. She lives together with her husband, two sons, a dog, two cats, and a spiny-tailed lizard. She enjoys hiking, writing, photography, singing, speaking, and eating desserts. She believes deeply in the inherent worth of each of us.

**February 25 10 am SONGS FOR THE PEOPLE: A CELEBRATION OF BLACK POETRY Rev. Dan Schatz and UCWC Members**

On this last Sunday of Black History Month, we celebrate the power and beauty of Black poetry through the centuries.

## Minister's Office Hours

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

## From the President

*"To achieve great things, two things are needed;  
a plan and not enough time."*

— Leonard Bernstein

The current Board has been meeting now for the past seven months, and I can truly say we have the second thing down pat. We don't always get through our ambitious agenda, engage in rich discussions, and take care of the business that comes our way. We have been reviewing a page or two of the bylaws at every meeting in hopes of presenting an updated and more relevant document to the congregation by the time we hold our annual meeting at the end of our fiscal year.



One of our plans is to keep ourselves informed about the many good things our congregation's committees are engaged in. To that end each Board member has taken a liaison role with a committee, or in the case of Susan Batchelor, a board representative on the Nomination Committee. The liaison's role is mostly informative so that the Board can appreciate the efforts of so many and share some of those successes and struggles with the Board as a whole. While we don't have enough Board members to liaison with every committee, we have covered most. To anyone serving on a committee or volunteering your time in other efforts to make this congregation a thriving community of caring people, know that you are valued and appreciated.

This year has also been a year of changes at all levels. We have seen the passing of the baton from Maggie to Kelly as our office administrator. Jason will be leaving in a few months, and we will find a new pianist to take his place. Both Maggie and Jason have been an integral part of our congregation for quite a while and our gratitude for their time here has no bounds. We are grappling with possible changes in the bylaws of the UUA and what that may or may not mean. We have a new president of the UUA. Regardless of having enough time or not, and whatever changes may come our way, we keep moving forward.

*The liaison's role is mostly informative so that the Board can appreciate the efforts of so many of you.*

## Pastoral Care

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



## You're Invited to the Stewardship Kick-off Dinner Party Saturday, March 2 at UCWC

March is the month of our Stewardship Campaign, and this year we will kick it off with a dinner and entertainment at UCWC on Saturday March 2 from 5:00-8:00 pm. Members and friends of all ages are invited. The dinner will be followed on Sunday morning with a special Stewardship Sunday Service.

All current members and friends will soon receive an invitation by email which will include a link to RSVP.



We ask that you RSVP whether or not you are able to come (simply enter 0 if you cannot come). Children of all ages are welcome and invited to come to the RE space for some special activities to celebrate the kick-off.

While the main course will be catered and paid for out of the Stewardship budget, we are asking that a few people sign up to bring an appetizer or a dessert. A sign-up will be available when you RSVP.

# Lifespan Faith Development

## RE Schedule for February

Join us this month as we gather for more RE opportunities. On the 4th we will gather for a special children's worship circle before our normal RE classes and youth group. And on the 11th our RE children and youth will join the whole congregation for an all-ages service and our Feast of Decadent Chocolate!

We will gather for a Time for All Ages story on the 18th and 25th before our classes and youth group. And as always, we offer nursery care each week for infants through three- and four-year-olds from 9:30 am to 11:30 am to allow extra time for drop off and pick up.



## Men's Group

The UCWC Men's Group will meet in-person on Tuesday, February 6, at 7:00 pm, via Zoom. The topic will be "The Ugly Side of Beauty" and Ed Cohle will lead the discussion. If you are interested in participating but are not yet on the email distribution list, please reach out to Mark and Dirk at [mens-group](mailto:mens-group).

## REflections Religious Education Update

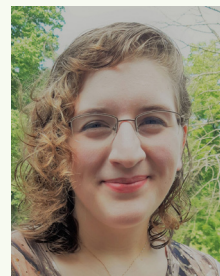
Lately I've been pondering a question, what does love mean to UUs?

In last month's newsletter, I couldn't help but lift up all the little ways that our community is showing love to one another, especially in RE, but since I started really noticing that, I've been able to see love everywhere in all we do as Unitarian Universalists.

Yes, love is that heartwarming feeling when you see those you care for, but it is also the way we speak to one another with consideration and deep listening. I see love in the ways we embrace social justice, and we physically embodied this at our Martin Luther King Jr. service when we gathered together to form the word LOVE in our congregation.

We show love for one another when we share and hold each other's joys and sorrows in every meeting as well as every Sunday. We bring love in our gifts of music, our hospitality, our smiles of greeting, our very presence just being here – whether that is in person or online. And so much more.

I think one of my favorite examples of love I've seen is our Stewardship Campaign using the image created by one of our young adults to express how they felt supported by this congregation. The dedication to being an inclusive and welcoming place that cares for one another in all these little ways, that lift up the voices of all ages, and that share generously with one another of time, talent, and energy – that is how we are thriving here at UCWC, and that is what we are bringing into this season.



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



## Adult RE What Does Love Mean to UUs? Wednesday, February 21 7:00-8:30

Join us for a hybrid Zoom and in person discussion led by Cassie Lengel and Rev. Dan on Wednesday, February 21, from 7:00-8:30 pm as we explore the place of love in Unitarian Universalism.

What is love? What if we said that love is as love does? What does it mean to see love as an action and not just a sentimental feeling? Unitarian Universalism has always been about living out our values, so where does love fit in? If we gather as an organization on the side of love, where is love leading us next? RSVP to email: [DLFD](mailto:DLFD) with how you would prefer to attend, or join us in person or online as you are able.

## Looking Ahead to March 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. RSVP to email: **DLFD** for more information or keep an eye on the Connections emails.

## Adult RE Weekly Mindfulness Meditation

Join us every Sunday for a Mindfulness Meditation session to explore a topic, meditate together, and reflect as we support each other's spiritual journeys.

When: 9:20-9:50 pm before services.

Where: Meditation room – Enter between the coat closet and the name tags.

Who: Everyone is welcome regardless of experience level.

Why: Meditation promotes relaxation, focus, self-awareness, emotional health, memory, kindness, and better sleep quality.

**About the Instructor.** The sessions are led by Dagmar Cofer, a seasoned instructor and practitioner of meditation, with a master's degree in applied meditation studies and over two decades of experience as a teacher of stress reduction and mindfulness practice and mindful meditation.

## 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**.

## UU History and Theologies Monday, January 29 on Zoom

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 and slideshow on Unitarian Universalist History and Theologies on Monday, January 29, from 6:30-8:30 pm. There will be stories, 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**.

## Feast of Decadent Chocolate

It's the most wonderful time...of the year!

This year's Feast of Decadent Chocolate will be Sunday, February 11, after the service. And while it is cold outside, we will be hot, hot, hot chocolaty warm inside.

We invite you to bring your favorite chocolate concoctions – preferably using fair trade chocolate – or simply to come and enjoy the chocolate decadence. We will feature delicious homemade cocoa as well as all of our other treats. If you missed the Cookies, Cocoa, and Choirs event, this is your chance to enjoy this delicious cocoa.

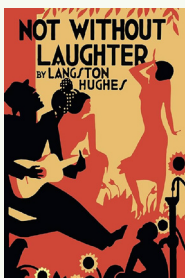


## Social Justice

### Diversity Book Group

Sun, Feb 11 7:00-8:30 Zoom

Led by Lorrie McKinley  
***Not without Laughter***  
by Langston Hughes



When first published in 1930, *Not Without Laughter* established Langston Hughes as not only a brilliant poet and leading light of the Harlem Renaissance but also a gifted novelist. In telling the story of Sandy Rogers, a young African American boy in small-town Kansas, and of his family — his mother, Annjee, a housekeeper for a wealthy white family; his irresponsible father, Jimboy, who plays the guitar and travels the country in search of employment; his strong-willed grandmother Hager, who clings to her faith; his Aunt Tempy, who marries a rich man; and his Aunt Harriet, who struggles to make it as a blues singer — Hughes gives the longings and lineaments of black life in the early twentieth century an important place in the history of racially divided America.

### UUJusticePA Forming New LGBTQIA+ Social Justice Team

UUJusticePA is the leading organization in Pennsylvania fighting for UU values in Harrisburg. There were six social justice teams: Economic Justice, Reproductive Justice, Good Government Team, Gun Violence Prevention, Criminal Justice Reform, and Environmental Justice.

Now, there is a new team being formed. Unitarian Universalism has been a leader among faith groups in welcoming the LGBTQ community for years. It was one of the first to welcome gay ministers and conduct same sex marriages — including one right here at UCWC soon after it became legal. With the many attacks on the LGBTQIA+ community over the last seven years, there was a need to have a social justice team dedicated to protecting and promoting their rights.

Justice teams conduct monthly zoom meetings with fellow UUs across the state and keep track of friendly and hostile bills in Harrisburg. Our leader, Rev. Joan Sabatino, is our full-time lobbyist.

If this is a cause that appeals to you, please consider joining the team. Go to the [UUJusticePa website](#), scroll down to Current & Upcoming Events, and click on our new team symbol (shown above). The first meeting is on Monday, February 5, at 6:00 pm.



### UUSC Update

Cyclone Mocha hit Burma on May 14 breaking records as one of the most powerful cyclones ever recorded in the country and killing more than 400 people in Rakhine state alone.

Our partner Burmese Rohingya Organization UK reported that the junta failed to provide warnings to the Rohingya to evacuate. After leaving these communities in a vulnerable position, the junta continued to block international aid agencies (including the UN) from accessing impacted areas.

Through our Emergency Response Fund, UUSC immediately provided our partners in the region with the funding they needed to distribute life-saving aid including shelter, medicine, food, and water. Thankfully, UUSC's unique partnerships with Burmese community organizations allowed us to deliver this desperately needed aid.

Thanks to the generous support of our members who contributed to our Emergency Response Fund, UUSC was ready to distribute emergency grants to our partners as soon as they called for our help.

Now, half of a year later, the road to recovery is far from over. Following the initial impacts of the storm, UUSC has since focused our efforts on building more robust disaster justice plans with our partners, so that everyone can receive the assistance they need at the time that they need it.

**Take Action:** Call on President Biden to impose targeted sanctions on jet fuel sales and shipping insurance for the Burmese military junta.

You can donate to Unitarian Universalist Service Committee [here](#). Any donation makes you a member.

Thank you.

# Calendar

All email addresses  
@ucwc.org

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

## Folk Singing



Our next get-together is Friday, February 9, at 7:30 pm. We meet at the home of Linda and Steve Sander.

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.

All vaccinated adults are welcome. Please self-test before coming. If you choose not to self-test, a mask will be required, even while singing.

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|--------|-----|--|
| Jan 29 | Mon | UU History and Theologies. 6:30 pm. Zoom. See p. 5.  |
| Feb 5  | Mon | Racial Justice Ministry. 5:00 pm. Zoom. Contact email: <a href="#">racial-justice</a> for more information.<br><br>Executive Committee Meeting. 7:00 pm. |
| Feb 6  | Tue | Men's Group. 7:00 pm. Sanctuary. See p. 4.   |
| Feb 7  | Wed | Small Group Ministry Leaders. 7:00 pm.   |
| Feb 9  | Fri | Folk Singing. 7:30 pm. Home of Linda & Steve Sander. See left.   |
| Feb 11 | Sun | Feast of Decadent Chocolate. After the service. 5.<br><br>Diversity Book Group. 7:00-8:30 pm. Zoom. See p. 6.  |
| Feb 12 | Mon | Religious Services Committee. 7:00 pm.   |
| Feb 13 | Tue | Council Meeting. 7:00 pm.  |
| Feb 18 | Sun | Share the Plate Sunday. Benefits West Chester University Resource Pantry.  |
| Feb 19 | Mon | Racial Justice Ministry. 5:00 pm. Zoom. Contact email: <a href="#">racial-justice</a> for more information.  |
| Feb 20 | Tue | Board Meeting. 6:30 pm.  |
| Feb 21 | Wed | Adult RE: What Does Love Mean to UUs? 7:00-8:30 pm. At UCWC and on Zoom. See p. 4.<br><br>UUJusticePA Reproductive Justice Meeting. 7:30 pm. Zoom.       |
| Mar 2  | Sat | Stewardship Kick-off Dinner. See p. 3.   |

### EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Sundays</b>        | <b>Mindfulness Meditation.</b> 9:20-9:50 am before services. See p. 5.  |
| <b>Most Thursdays</b> | <b>Spirit Singers Practice.</b> at 7:30 pm. For specific dates, contact Miriam Davidson, email: <a href="#">choir</a> .   |
| <b>Various Dates</b>  | <b>Small Group Ministry (Several Active Groups).</b> See <a href="#">web calendar</a> for dates. Contact email: <a href="#">SGM</a> for availability. See p. 5. |

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

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