

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

June 2024



NOTES FROM REV. DAN

Early in my ministry at this congregation, we came together for a conversation about how we have conversations. In our service and the workshop afterwards, we talked about all the things that we would promise to one another – during good times, during hard times, when we agreed, and when we didn't. We talked about the kind of community we wanted to be. That June, we voted unanimously to adopt our Covenant of Right Relations:

To foster our sense of community and engage with members of all ages in a respectful, meaningful manner that upholds Unitarian Universalist values, we pledge to bring a spirit of understanding, love, and kindness to our relations with one another. We come together through this covenant to affirm our intention to:

Listen with an open mind,

withholding judgment and striving to understand others, as we wish others to understand us;

Speak thoughtfully,

cultivating honest and meaningful communication by assuming others have good intentions and expressing our truths with compassion and care;

Welcome diverse perspectives and people,

providing a safe and caring environment, where the wonderful differences found throughout human existence are a source of strength and lead to more rewarding experiences;

Approach conflict constructively,

engaging directly those with whom we disagree, remembering our shared values, seeking equitable solutions, and respecting decisions that may leave us disappointed;

Enhance the connections among us,

supporting each other in times of need, honoring our commitments, raising our youth ethically, and contributing our unique gifts, as we are able, to our congregation, our communities, and the wider world;

Find joy in being together,

celebrating moments both significant and small, and delighting in friendship, laughter and love.

We understand and accept our own limitations and the limitations of others, forgiving ourselves and each other when we do not fully live our Unitarian Universalist values, so that we may continue to strengthen the bonds that unite us in beloved community.

Like most covenants, this one is tougher when there is disagreement or conflict – and that's when it becomes most important. With so many strong feelings about upcoming votes at this year's Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly, I hope we return to these promises we made to one another, forgiving our missteps and calling ourselves back to the community we wish to be.

Yes, there will be different views, and yes, some people will be disappointed with the results, whichever way they land. But in the end, the quality of our congregation – and of Unitarian Universalism – will be measured far more by how we live our faith than how we describe it.

And remember, whatever your views on the big UU questions of the day, whether you don't know what to think, have strong opinions, or don't particularly care, you are part of this community, and you are loved.

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

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.

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Team contact for this month is **Barbara Dallara.**



June 2 10 am OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS: Cassie Lengel and Rev. Dan Schatz RE SUNDAY

Come one come all to our Religious Education Sunday! Join us on our quest to search for the heart of RE through questions from our children and youth as we celebrate what they've learned this year. This Sunday we also gather together all ages with Open Hearts and Open Minds to dedicate a new child and welcome the child to UCWC.

We ask all members to please stay for the Annual Meeting following the service. Childcare will be provided.

June 9 10 am THE STILLNESS WITHIN Rev. Dan Schatz

In this era of intensity and activity, stillness can be an elusive, though coveted, spiritual goal. How can we open room for the stillness within ourselves?

Jun 16 10 am SERVICE OF PRIDE: UCWC Members ALL OF WHO WE ARE ARE WELCOME AND SACRED

One of Unitarian Universalism's missions and commitments is to support each person's dignity and worth. We honor the many ways that people live and love. We welcome the sacredness of all loving relationships and the worthiness and beauty of all gender expressions. In this Service of Pride, we will affirm this with joy. Please join members of UCWC, including Amelia and Carrie Sandler and Kathy Beatty, as they share their experiences as LGBTQ+ members and allies, both challenging and hopeful. Together, we are a part of our Beloved Community.

Jun 23 10 am SPIRITUALITY AND HUMOR Ed Cohle

Is there a relationship between humor and spirituality? Can laughter and faith coexist? A somewhat lighthearted but serious look at these and other pressing questions of the day to make you laugh and think.

Jun 30 10 am TBA

Annual Congregation Meeting

Our annual congregation meeting will be on Sunday, June 2, at 11:15 am or 15 minutes after the end of the service that day. All congregation members are encouraged to attend. We will arrange childcare during the meeting to allow folks with kids to attend.

The annual meeting is important for everyone as the business of UCWC is conducted and decisions made that affect the coming year – new board members are elected, bylaws amended, budget accepted, etc. Your participation is appreciated and necessary for input into decisions that must be made.

The meeting will be hybrid. The Zoom link for those not attending in person is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85938931239>. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

From the President

Hopefully, you have completed the survey about the proposed Article II of the UUA bylaws. If you haven't you may still have time to beat the May 30 deadline. Thanks to all those who did take a few minutes to do this.

Summer is approaching, and it feels like some things are winding down. Some board members are getting ready to leave and others await beginning their terms. The Board has been very busy this past year, necessitating everything from extra work sessions to a three-and-a-half-hour recent meeting. I wonder if that is a record? Can somebody check that?



Like last year, much time spent in weighty issues, less time in work specific to our congregation organization. Some of what we wanted to accomplish didn't get done. I am hopeful that next year the Board can spend more time in achieving our goals specific to our congregation (such as policies, organizational matters, growth, etc.).

I am lucky to have such thoughtful Board members contributing to discussions at every meeting. Actually, we are lucky – the whole congregation. Paul Sapko, Susan Batchelor and Teri Lesser will be leaving the Board at the end of June. Please come to the annual meeting on June 2 after the service so you can thank them for their hard work.

I would like to lift up and celebrate something we all take for granted, *The Fellowtarian*. For years Steve Sander has been our web guru, brochure designer, and designer/publisher of our monthly newsletter. Many of you have watched it grow from a basic newsletter into the current eye-catching publication you get by email every month.

I think Steve's publishing skills also grew along the way. One of the advantages of volunteering time is that your own knowledge and skills may increase and improve. A win-win use of your time. If you are reading this, then you are one of the people (not everyone reads this publication) appreciating the information contained in the *Fellowtarian*. A round of applause for Steve.

— Ed Cohle

I am lucky to have such thoughtful Board members contributing to discussions at every meeting. Actually, we are lucky – the whole congregation.

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 am before services

Where: The meditation room (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.



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

Dan's office hours in the Summer are by appointment. He can be reached at email: **minister** or by cell phone. He will be on Study Leave the weeks of June 10 and June 24. During this time, he will be available for pastoral emergencies.

Lifespan Faith Development

Teacher Appreciation

We especially invite all our teachers, facilitators, and helpers from RE this year to join us for our service on June 2, so



we can celebrate all you've done to make this year possible.

We are an organization of volunteers, and without you we couldn't do the amazing things we do for our kids. We have a small gift for you to show our appreciation, so if you cannot make it to the service, please see Cassie Lengel to pick it up later. Thank you again!

RE Schedule for Summer

School's out for summer. And so we've wrapped up our program year in our RE classes for kids and youth, but that doesn't mean the fun has to stop. Keep an eye on *Connections*, and join us for fun events throughout the summer as we gather for ice cream, picnics, playdates, game nights, and more. Children are also always welcome to attend the Sunday services with their families, and as always, our nursery will remain open and staffed for any childcare needs for infants and toddlers.

REflections: Religious Education Update

Once upon a time, in a not so far away place, a child was born and loved and cherished. You see, this child was a part of a community, a congregation of people gathered together to care for them and support them. They cooed when hearing a happy giggle, they made foolish faces just to see a smile, they held sleepy heads with compassion.

As this child grew, the congregation welcomed them and made promises to walk along with them on their path in life. The child was filled with wonder and loved to explore, and soon they were full of questions. Why this? Why that? They wanted to feel loved and accepted no matter what, so they learned how to love and accept others. They wanted to have their needs met so they worked for justice. They wanted to feel peaceful, so they worshipped with others.



This child is you, is me, is every child in RE today and every one that will be. Our children are cherished, but they need us to be there for them. In our RE classes, our teachers work hard to show our children where to look, but wait to see what the children will find. We learn best together, and we become our most whole selves when we are not alone.

I thank all our current teachers, and those who have helped in past years, but I come to you today with a plea to help us grow, love, and serve one another towards a better UCWC by investing in our kids. Consider becoming an RE teacher or learning about other ways to support our programs.

— Cassie Lengel, Email: DLFD

Summer Ice Cream Socials

Every summer RE invites our friends and families, as well as the whole congregation, to join us for ice cream to beat the heat and meet some cool people. This year we are planning to meet at the Creamery at the Milky Way Farm in Chester Springs – where all the ice cream is made fresh. They are accessible for parking and have room for the kids to run around and see the animals. They can also accommodate nut allergies with dedicated procedures and freshly opened products. **Join us at 7:00 pm at the Creamery on Tuesday, June 18, and Wednesday, July 17, with August 8 TBD.**



RE Sunday: Open Hearts, Open Minds

Come one come all to our RE Sunday on June 2. Join us on our quest to search for the heart of RE through questions from our children and youth as we celebrate what they've learned this year. This Sunday we also gather together all ages with Open Hearts and Open Minds to dedicate a new child and welcome the child to UCWC.

Social Justice

Advocacy Day for Gun Violence Prevention in Harrisburg

Tuesday, May 7, turned out to be a beautiful, blue sky day in Harrisburg and a great day for lobbying our elected reps for gun safety. UUJusticePA joined 50 other organizations and over 560 allies for CeaseFirePA Advocacy Day with 25+ members of our own, including Rick London and Tom Buglio from UCWC.



We had a chance to say thank you to our reps who are on board, and do “drop bys” to the reps and senators who are not – including Chester County’s Rep. John Lawrence, and the three Pennsylvania senators who are holding up action on the three good bills that have already been voted out of the House.

However, we left Harrisburg in disappointment: two good gun safety bills were voted on that afternoon in the House and lost by one vote.

What can we do to get good gun safety bills passed? Support those running for office who champion Gun Safety. Keep in mind that days like May 7 still lay the groundwork for success and are well worth doing. We enjoyed meeting and lobbying with fellow UUs and others across the state, and we get inspiration and energy from all of those who care about this work.

If you are interested in joining our team here at UCWC, contact Tom Buglio at email: gun-safety. Spread the peace.

Tom Buglio

UUJusticePA Gun Violence Prevention Team Leader

Pridefest

On Saturday, June 8, from noon to 5:00 pm, stop by our booth at the Chester County Pridefest in Phoenixville. We would love to have volunteers to come sit with us for a while, and all are welcome to drop by and decorate kindness rocks with us. For more information contact Cassie Lengel at email: DLFD.

Celebrate Juneteenth

On June 19, 1865, nearly two years after President Abraham Lincoln emancipated enslaved Africans in America, Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas with news of freedom. More than 250,000 African Americans embraced freedom by executive decree in what became known as Juneteenth or Freedom Day. – National Museum of African American History

Juneteenth was made a federal holiday in 2021.



VECTEEZY.COM ADAPTED BY STEVE SNDER

Join the Chester County celebration of Juneteenth – there are a wide variety of events taking place all over Chester County. The Cultural Alliance of Chester County has collected information about events around the county. On [their website](#) you can find specific information about events in West Chester, Kennett Square, Coatesville, and Phoenixville.

You can join members of the Racial Justice Ministry at the Rustin Day of Film on the evening of the 14th – tickets are available [here](#). We are also excited about the [Bayard Rustin and Underground Railroad walking tours](#) that the Chester County History Center is sponsoring as well as the [celebration at the Melton Center](#) scheduled for Saturday, June 15, from 1:00-4:00 pm, including programming by the West Chester Branch of the NAACP.

Please take a few minutes to explore the many opportunities to join in the celebration of this important holiday – many of us at UCWC will take part, so invite your friends and become part of the local celebration of this important new holiday.

Fun & Fellowship

Men's Group

The UCWC Men's Group will meet in-person on Tuesday, June 4, at 7:00 pm, via Zoom. The topic will be, "How Governments Spend Money," and Dirk Troltenier will lead the discussion. Meeting details and Zoom link will be sent out via email. If you are interested in participating but are not yet on the UCWC Men's Group email distribution list, please reach out to Mark and Dirk at email: mens-group.

UCWC Women's Group

The UCWC Women's Group is an inclusive group: trans, CIS, nonbinary, and plus welcome. Join in on some fun and/or educational activities and build deeper friendships along the way. Weekly walks on Wednesdays and Saturdays, lunch gatherings monthly on first Fridays and third Sundays, and lots more.

Receive a weekly email digest of plans and activities by email. Request to sign up at email: womens-group.

Join Us for a Dining Fundraiser

Dine in or take out at The Tomato Shack Cafe (formerly The Couch Tomato) anytime between 11 am and 8:30 pm on Sunday, June 9, and 15% of your purchase will be donated to UCWC. **IMPORTANT: Before you pay, whether in person or over the phone, mention our promo code "UCWC Fundraiser."**

Online purchases are not eligible.

The menu features homemade soups, craft salads, sandwiches, and artisan pizzas with several vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options. We will have a group table (possibly rooftop) after the service for anyone interested. Meet us there around noon.

The Tomato Shack is located at 31 West Gay Street in West Chester. Contact us at email: fun with questions.

Support UCWC by dining at

the tomato shack



(formerly The Couch Tomato)

Menu features local and organic products, as well as a specialization in vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free offerings.



- Gourmet Pizzas •
- Specialty Salads •
- Signature Sandwiches •
- Homemade Soups •

Fundraiser SUNDAY JUNE 9

11 am - 8:30 pm

31 W Gay Street in West Chester

Dine In or Take Out

*Before you pay, mention the promo code:
UNITARIAN CONGREGATION and 15%
of your purchase will be donated to UCWC.*

Contact fun@ucwc.org

See full menu at thetomatoshack.com

Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

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



**The Annual
Congregational
Meeting is
Sunday, June 2.**

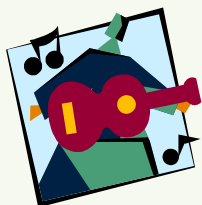
June 2	Sun	Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal. 9:15 am. Annual Congregational Meeting. After the service. See p. 2.
Jun 3	Mon	Racial Justice Ministry. 5:00 pm. Zoom. Contact email: racial-justice for more information. Executive Committee Meeting. 7:00 pm. Zoom.
Jun 4	Tue	Criminal Justice Reform Team. 4:30 pm. Zoom. Contact Robin Garrett, email: criminal-justice . Men's Group. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 6.
Jun 7	Fri	Game Night. 7:00 pm. Sanctuary. Email: game-night .
Jun 8	Sat	Chester County Pridefest. Noon-5:00 pm. UCWC Booth in Phoenixville. See p. 5.
Jun 9	Sun	Dining Fundraiser. 11:00 am-8:30 pm. The Tomato Shack in West Chester. See p. 6.
Jun 10	Mon	Religious Services Committee. 7:00 pm. Zoom.
Jun 16	Sun	Share the Plate Sunday. Benefits West Chester Food Cupboard .
Jun 17	Mon	Racial Justice Ministry. 5:00 pm. Zoom. Contact email: racial-justice for more information.
Jun 18	Tue	Adult Religious Education Meeting. 4:00 pm. Zoom. Board Meeting. 6:00 pm. Zoom. RE Ice Cream Social. 7:00 pm. The Creamery at Milky Way Farms in Chester Springs. See p. 4.
Jun 19	Wed	Junteenth Celebration. Multiple Locations. See p. 5. UUJusticePA Reproductive Justice Meeting. 7:30 pm. Zoom.
Jun 25	Tue	UUJusticePA Gun Violence Prevention Team. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 5.

EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:

Sundays	Mindfulness Meditation. 9:20-9:50 am before services. See p. 3.
Most Thursdays	Spirit Singers Practice. at 7:30 pm. For specific dates, contact Miriam Davidson, email: choir .
Various Dates	Small Group Ministry (Several Active Groups). See web calendar for dates. Contact email: SGM for availability. See p. 3. Womens Group. Walks on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Monthly lunch gatherings first Fridays and third Sundays. See p. 6.

Folk Singing

There will be a folk-
singing get-together in
June, but the date has
not yet been decided.
Check *Connections* and
the web calendar in June.



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
All email addresses @ucwc.org

Rev. Daniel Schatz, Minister..... 610-692-4043 email: [minister](#)
Kelly Piscitello, 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* Editorsemail: [fellowtarian](#)