

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

August 2024



NOTES FROM REV. DAN

August is a funny month for UU congregations. We tend to think of it as deepest summer, when folks are away on vacation, we have a variety of guest speakers and lay led services, and things are just generally quieter and more informal than usual. At the same time, August is when we gear up for the fall, with new families visiting for the first time, new plans made, and new friendships created. By the end of the month, the minister is back in the pulpit, university students are back in the local houses, and West Chester – both within and outside our congregation – bustles.

This year, planning is already in full swing. We're readying a host of new adult programs and opportunities for connection, expanding our children's religious education program, getting ready to replace *The Fellowtarian** with a new kind of publication, planning a new Member Sunday for the fall, and gearing up for what we hope will be a strong start to the year.

Of course, we also know it's a challenging fall, and a crucial one for many in our country. The election in November may be among the most

consequential in US history, and we're planning for that as well, with non-partisan UU the Vote activities to help ensure strong participation, in addition to our regular social justice, Welcoming Congregation, and anti-racism work, as well as an opportunity to connect with each other in safe space on November 6, whatever the result.

Most of all, we're planning for a fall in which we grow, love, and serve together as Unitarian Universalists, in which we spread the message of our free faith, and in which we connect with one another in mutual support and caring.

I, for one, am already excited!

In faith — — wait — — what did you say about *The Fellowtarian*?

*Yes! After over 20 years at the job, Steve Sander will be retiring as editor of *The Fellowtarian*, and *The Fellowtarian* will be retiring along with him. (Thank you, Steve, for so many years of service!) September will be our last issue. In its place, we plan to create a monthly email with readings and resources. More details to come — and suggestions for a name for our new publication are welcome — send your ideas to email: minister.

In faith, Dan

Most of all, we're planning for a fall in which we grow, love, and serve together as Unitarian Universalists.

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.

August 4 10 am

**ROLL FOR INSIGHT:
DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
AND UU VALUES**

**Larry Lesser &
Eric Sweet,
UCWC Members**

As we move into the second season of UCWC Youth Group's ongoing DnD campaign, it's worth asking: Can UU values be expressed through the game? What values do we see the teens show? And did it help, or hinder, community-building? We'll look at some things we did (and didn't) expect over the course of the season.

August 11 10 am

**WHOLEHEARTED
LIVING**

Rev. Dr. Richard Speck

Dr Brené Brown defines Wholehearted Living as engaging in our lives from a place of worthiness; the courage, compassion, and connection to wake up in the morning and think, "No matter what gets done and how much is undone, I am enough." It's going to bed at night thinking, "Yes I am imperfect and vulnerable and sometimes afraid, but that doesn't change the truth that I am worthy of love and belonging." We will explore more of how we live into this way of being in our service.

The Reverend Doctor 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, before coming to the JPD in 2000 as Acting District Executive. In his last two years in Florida he also served as the music director for the church. He graduated from Meadville/Lombard Theological School with a Doctorate in Ministry in 1990. He was hired as the regular District Executive in 2001, serving fourteen years before retiring from full time ministry in 2014.

August 18 10 am

**THE FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS
AS TOLD
THROUGH MOTOWN**

**Jake Michel and
Kathy Beatty**

Why is it that songs of sadness and heartbreak have always been so popular? What is it about human nature that makes us drawn to hearing tales of suffering? In certain respects, dealing with suffering is a foundational element of Buddhism, which clearly is valued by its 520 million followers worldwide. UCWC members Jake Michel and Kathy Beatty will consider suffering through an exploration of the music of 1960s Motown and the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism, two very different cultural elements that both rather converge when it comes to how to address suffering. Come and sing along!

August 25 10 am

**ON BEING
GOOD ENOUGH**

Rev. Dan Schatz

Sometimes we hold ourselves to impossibly high standards. In a culture that exalts perfectionism, how do we recognize and embrace the goodness within us?

Lifespan Faith Development

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

You may have heard the saying, "It takes a village," used to refer to all the support it takes to raise children, and that same sentiment is perfect for thinking about our congregation. No, we don't have diapers to change, nor do we have to run out for soccer practice. We don't even have to try to relearn math with the new ways it is taught. But our village – our UCWC community, needs all of us to raise this child – our congregation.

When we first formed so many years ago, it was as a group of friends and likeminded folks who wanted to spend time together, support one another, continue to learn, and join our hands in service. Over time we've gained size and momentum, more ministries and traditions, but at the same time we still are those same people coming together for one another.

Our "village" gets larger, and our "children" become more numerous, but it is the togetherness that is how we will create something rich and sustaining. And as valued members of our UCWC village, we need all of us to bring our whole selves with our time and talents to give back.

In the spirit of raising children, as the saying is often used, I hope we can find a literal takeaway from this as well. We place such value on our support for one another and our love of learning and service that it is no wonder that we invest so much in our children, nor does it surprise us that they are looking up to us to be there for them.

It takes a village...to offer RE for our families. It takes so much to run our programs each Sunday, but it is so much more than that. RE is often referring to our classes, but it is a support network for building up the hearts and spirits of our children as well. We need you, and I hope you will consider taking some time with us in RE, because these kids are already looking to us and what kind of village we want to be.



Cassie Lengel
Email: DLFD

Last Ice Cream Social of the Summer

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.

We 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 for the last one of the summer on Thursday, August 8, at 7:00 pm.



Special DnD First Friday Game Night

You're invited to join us on Friday, August 2, at 7:00 pm at the congregation for fun and games of all sorts and sizes. This month we are planning to have a one-off Dungeons and Dragons type adventure for families and children to have fun with. All are welcome – no age requirement and no experience needed.



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.

Parking Reminder

As students return to West Chester University at the end of August, parking will once again become tighter. To help make space near the building for those who need it, we remind all who are able to park in the West Chester Public Works lot on Lacey Street, two blocks east of the congregation.



The lot is available for our use whenever they are not using it – after 5:00 pm on weekdays, Saturdays except third Saturdays (or whenever they do bulk trash / yard waste), and all day Sundays.

From High Street go all the way up Magnolia past Matlack, follow the road to the right, go half a block, and turn left into the parking lot across from the Public Works building.

It is a three-minute walk down Lacey Street to the congregation. Parking is also often available on Sharpless Street and along Walnut Street. Parking is free on weekends, and you do not need a residential pass. Carpooling is also encouraged.

Fun & Fellowship



Women's Group



Join in on some fun and/or educational activities and build deeper friendships along the way. Twice weekly walks (in a park and at Longwood Gardens), twice monthly lunch gatherings, and various non-recurring activities await. Participate in one, several, or all of them.

The UCWC Women's Group is an inclusive group: trans, CIS, nonbinary, and plus welcome. Receive a weekly digest of plans and activities by email. Request to sign up at email: womens-group.

Folk Singing



Watch *Connections*, the web calendar, and the orders of service for the date of the August folk singing get-together.

No singing 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. All vaccinated adults are welcome. Contact Steve Sander at email: folk-singing.

Men's Group

The UCWC Men's Group will meet in person on Tuesday, August 6, at 7:00 pm for a "beer tasting event" at Tilo's home. 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.



Social Justice

Share the Plate 2024-2025 Recipient Nominations

The Social Justice Committee will choose the 2024-2025 Share the Plate recipients in August. 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 12.

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.

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.

Working for Fair and Equitable Prison Sentences: Time to End Mandatory Minimums

UCWC



CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM Team

Are you curious about how judges determine an appropriate sentence for those convicted of crimes? Would you like to learn more about sentencing guidelines and how you could help make them more just?

The U.S. Congress established a Sentencing Commission in 1987 as part of the judicial system. The President chooses the seven members of the Commission. The Commission publishes sentencing guidelines yearly which federal judges consult for an appropriate sentence for a particular federal crime. Prior to 2002, the recommended sentences were mandatory. Since then, judges can use their discretion. Public comments are accepted once a year. The Commission also consults academics and other experts. Any amendments they deem appropriate are submitted to Congress. If Congress approves them, those amendments

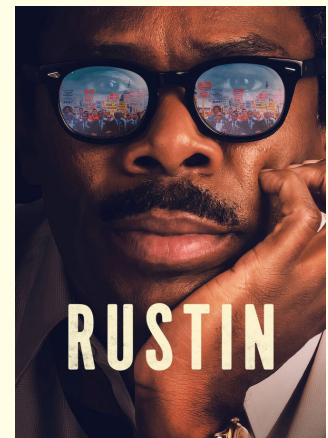
will be included in the Guidelines published the following year.

Some states, including Pennsylvania, have sentencing commissions that give guidance for state crime sentences. The Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing is an agency of the General Assembly. The guidelines recommend a range of minimum sentence based on the seriousness of the offense and the prior criminal history of the offender. Guidelines are available on the [Commission's website](#).

A good resource for information and how you can encourage more just sentencing is available from [FAMM](#) (formerly Families Against Mandatory Minimums). They periodically offer short, live virtual presentations. An online discussion/support group on Facebook is [FAMMilies in Action](#).



Diversity Book Group



On Sunday, August 11, the Diversity Book Group will view the movie *Rustin* together at Lucy Demitrack's home at 5:00 pm, potluck at 7:00. Details to come in an email.

Let Debby Kern (email: diversity-book-group) know if you want to be put on the email list.

Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

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

Minister's Vacation Schedule

Dan will be on vacation mixed with study leave through August 18. During this time, the lay Pastoral Care Team can be reached at email: [pastoral-care](#). For other questions, please contact email: [office](#).

Beginning August 19, he will be available by appointment on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays.

- Aug 2 Fri** **Special Dungeons and Dragons Game Night.** 7:00 pm. Sanctuary. Email: [game-night](#). See p. 3.
- Aug 5 Mon** **Racial Justice Ministry.** 5:00 pm. Zoom. Contact email: [racial-justice](#) for more information.
Executive Committee Meeting. 7:00 pm. Zoom.
- Aug 6 Tue** **Criminal Justice Reform Team.** 4:30 pm. See p. 5.
Men's Group. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 4.
- Aug 8 Thu** **RE Ice Cream Social.** [The Creamery at Milky Way Farms](#) in Chester Springs. See p. 3.
- Aug 11 Sun** **Diversity Book Group.** Potluck at 5:00 pm. Movie *Rustin* at 7:00 pm. At Lucy Demitrack's home. See p. 5.
- Aug 12 Mon** **Religious Services Committee.** 7:00 pm. Zoom.
Deadline for Share the Plate nominations. See p. 5.
- Aug 18 Sun** **Share the Plate Sunday.** Benefits [Volunteer English Program](#). Contact Emily Sweet at email: [share-the-plate](#).
- Aug 19 Mon** **Racial Justice Ministry.** 5:00 pm. Zoom. Contact email: [racial-justice](#) for more information.
- Aug 20 Tue** **Adult Religious Education Meeting.** 4:00 pm. Zoom.
Board Meeting. 6:00 pm. Zoom.
- Aug 21 Wed** **UUJusticePA Reproductive Justice Meeting.** 7:30 pm. Zoom.
- Aug 27 Tue** **UUJusticePA Gun Violence Prevention Team.** 7:00 pm. Zoom. Contact Tom Buglio at email: [gun-safety](#).

EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:

- 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. 4.
Women's Group. Walks on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Monthly lunch gatherings first Friday and third Sunday. See p. 4.
Folk Singing. Date to be determined. See p. 4.

Pastoral Care

The [Pastoral Care Team](#) contact for this month is **Diane Cohle**



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](#)