

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

September 2024



NOTES FROM REV. DAN

Sometimes, we are ready for a change.

When Steve and Linda Sander decided it was time to let go of *The Fellowtarian* after 20 years at the helm, they suggested maybe we didn't need the monthly PDF newsletter any longer. In 2024, most of us get our information in different ways — through *Connections* or Sunday announcements especially — and the long form newsletter just doesn't seem as crucial to it all as it used to be. At the same time, our newsletter wasn't just news. Through columns and resources, it could also be a source of inspiration, as well as a way of holding our community together.

So we're creating something new.

Beginning in September, we'll send out a monthly *Inspirations* email with readings, resources, music, poetry, and images. Each issue will be a little different, and I'm sure things will evolve over the coming months and years, but for the moment you can expect something to inspire, something for children or families, something musical, and hopefully something meaningful in each

issue. For congregational news and announcements, we'll use *Connections* and the occasional special email, and for the moment we'll include our monthly list of services in *Connections* as well. This will be the last issue of *The Fellowtarian*.

Please note that *Inspirations* will be sent using the *Connections* email list. If you do not currently receive *Connections*, please write to email: **office** and ask to be added to the list.

Beginning in September, we'll send out a monthly Inspirations email with readings, resources, music, poetry, and images.

Before I end my last newsletter column, I want to be sure to thank all of the people who have kept *The Fellowtarian* going through all the years, adapting to changes, reminding us all of the deadlines

while forgiving the occasional late submission, carefully reading and editing every article, and making it all look beautiful. There are too many dedicated folks to mention, but of course Steve and Linda deserve special recognition. Thank you for all you have done, and for all you continue to do for our congregation.

As for the future — keep an eye on your inbox.

In faith, Dan

Our Mission

Our mission is to:

GROW in spirit, heart
and mind

LOVE through care
and community

SERVE beyond
ourselves

Minister's Office Hours

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



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
Sheila Grant



September 1 10 am BREAD AND ROSES Rev. Dan Schatz

In this very special Labor Day service our Grammy nominated Minister will put on his folksinger hat to share music and reflections about work, song, and the labor movement.

Musicians and all others are invited to stay after the service for a Labor Day song circle in the sanctuary – bring instruments, a song, or just your voice. See p. 7.

September 8 10 am COME TOGETHER, MOVE TOGETHER Rev. Dan Schatz and Cassie Lengel
All Ages Ingathering Service

As we come together for our all ages Ingathering service, we celebrate our journeys together and apart. This service will include our annual Blessing of the Backpacks – all who attend, and especially school aged children and youth, are invited to bring their backpacks or other bags with them to the service. (For those who don't bring bags, we can bless "virtual backpacks.")

After the service we will regather at East Goshen Park at noon for our Annual Fall picnic. See p. 7.

September 15 10 am TRUTH Rev. Dan Schatz

Unitarian Universalists are committed to a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. How do we hold to value the truth, especially in times of conflict?

September 22 10 am CLIMATE JUSTICE REVIVAL Rev. Dan Schatz

This September, Unitarian Universalists across the country are coming together this month to work for climate justice. In this special service, we will renew our commitment to climate justice and nurture our relationship with our environment.

September 29 10 am JOYFUL NOISE UCWC Folk Singing Group

For a change of pace, our annual folk singing service will not have a "message" theme. (We are all being bombarded with messages this fall.) We're going to just have an old-fashioned, all-fun sing-along.

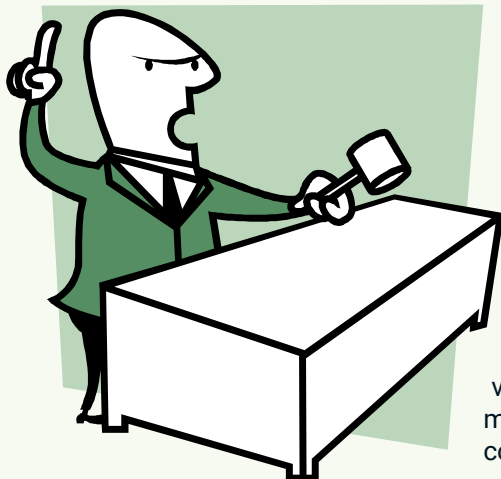
If you come, we expect you to join in – as we say in our monthly emails, "No singing talent necessary." Besides, singing is good for your health.



The Auction Is Coming!

The UCWC Service Auction will be Saturday October 19 from 4:00-7:00 pm and will include in-person silent bidding and a hybrid Zoom/in-person live auction. The auction is a very important fundraising event for UCWC, and a FUN-raiser as well. Everyone is welcome. [Learn more here.](#)

Plan Your Donation Now



It is time to think about what you want to donate. We emphasize services and items of value. Here are some ideas: artwork, antiques, a group dinner or party, home-baked bread/cookies/cake/pie, IT help, lessons, hand-crafted items, pet care, handyman services, carwash, lawn mowing, garden plants, a themed basket, use of a vacation home, frequent flyer miles, items of value in excellent condition.

Enter a description of your donation [here.](#)

Timeline

Month of September	Submit your donation description.
September 22, 29, or Oct 6	Drop off donated items at UCWC.
October 1	Deadline for your donation to be included in the catalog. (If not, it will be in the addendum published a few days before auction night.)
October 6, 13 (Sundays)	Silent Auction bidding after the service.
October 19	Auction Night, 4:00-7:00 pm.

Help Needed

Want to join the team? We need help promoting the event, setting up and taking down the silent auction (three times), proof-reading the catalog, soliciting donations from businesses, and with various tasks the afternoon/evening of the auction. Contact Nancy at email: [auction.](#)

Solicit a Business Donation

Take [this letter](#) to your favorite restaurant, hardware store, salon, gift shop, studio, etc., and ask if they want to make a donation (merchandise or gift card) to our auction. Tell them that, in return, we will put a free, quarter-page, color ad in our auction book.

Bring an Appetizer or Dessert

In lieu of a dinner we will have appetizers and desserts. We are asking for volunteers to bring one or the other. Please sign up using the Sign-Up Genius (link will be in Connections and on the website).

Men's Group

The UCWC Men's Group will meet in person on Tuesday, September 3, at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary (no Zoom this time). Mark will lead a discussion on "Friends and Friendship." All men are welcome. If you are interested in participating but are not yet on the email distribution list, please reach out to Mark and Dirk at email: [mens-group.](#)



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.](#)

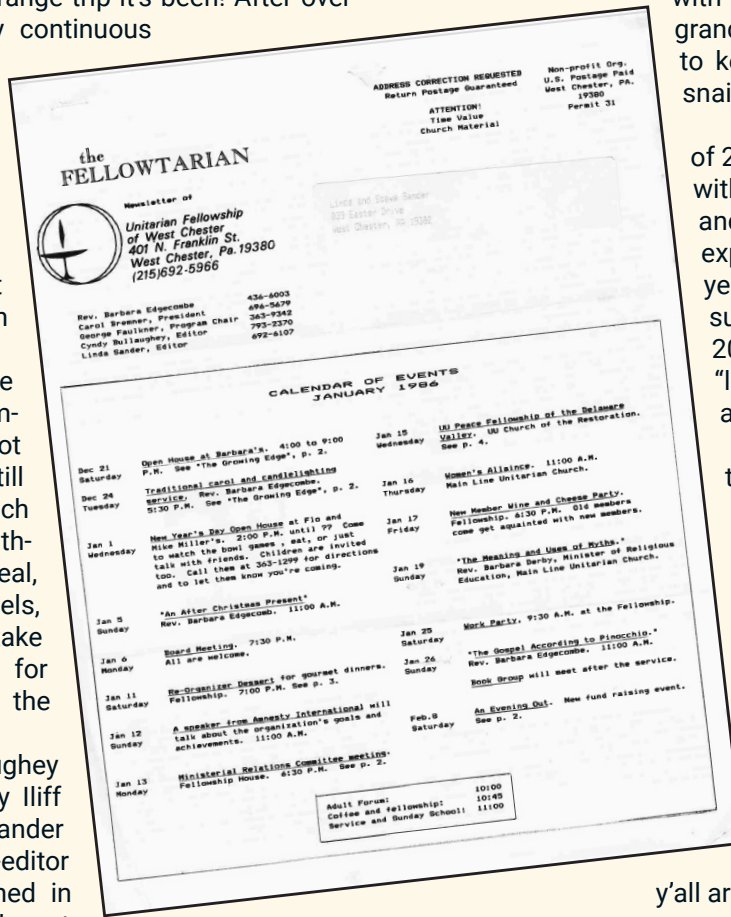
Goodbye!

What a long, strange trip it's been! After over 50 years of nearly continuous publication, this issue of *The Fellowtarian* will be the last.

Times have certainly changed. Until 1990 "cut and paste" really meant cut and paste...with real paste.

In that year we switched to computer layout. But a lot of the work was still done by hand. Each month a group gathered to collate, seal, add address labels, zip-code-sort, and take to the post office for bulk mail delivery, the printed copies.

Cyndy Bullaughey took over for Kathy Iliff in 1978. Linda Sander joined Cyndy as co-editor in 1986, and I joined in 1997, helping with layout. In 2000, we switched to all email digital —



with the exception of a few grandfathered folks who wished to keep receiving hard copy by snail mail.

Cyndy retired in the summer of 2002, and I became co-editor with Linda. In 2005 — as UCWC and its activities grew — we expanded from eleven issues a year (monthly except for single summer issue) to twelve. In 2016 we unveiled our current "look" with a new masthead and a more colorful design.

But the clock ticks. The time has come for Linda and me to retire...and with it *The Fellowtarian*. You'll still get all the news you need from Kelly Piscatello's comprehensive and well-designed weekly *Connections*. In addition, a new, monthly extended email with readings and resources is planned. Details to come.

So, please enjoy this month's read — and see

y'all around.

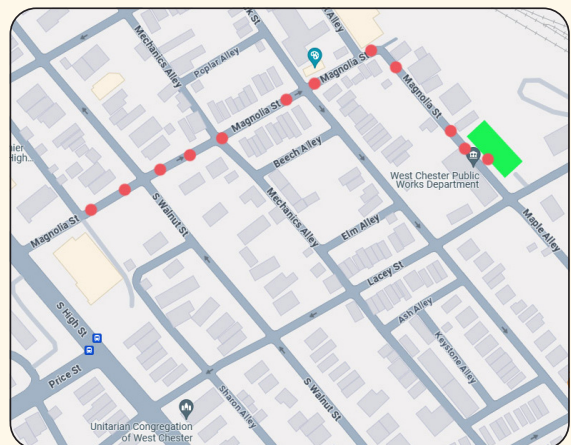
Steve Sander

Parking Reminder

Students are back in West Chester, and parking is once again tighter. To help make space near the building for those who need it, we encourage all who can to park in the West Chester Public Works lot on Lacey Street, two blocks east of the congregation.

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.

The Public Works lot is available on weekends except third Saturdays, and on evenings after 5:00 pm, as long as the borough is not engaged in snow and ice removal. Parking is also often available on Sharpless Street and along Walnut Street. Parking is free on evenings and weekends, and you do not need a residential pass. Carpooling is also encouraged.



Lifespan Faith Development

RE Registration

As we prepare for another year, we ask that our families please fill out the RE registration forms, so we know we have the most up to date information about your child and your emergency information.

Having this information helps us to keep safe records, register our size with the UUA, and make sure we have the resources we need to support the number and needs of the children who are attending. You can find the form **on our website** under the children and youth tab, and it only takes a few minutes. Thanks all!

RE Schedule

- Sep 1 Labor Day Weekend.
No RE.
- Sep 8 Ingathering Service
- Sep 14 Teacher Training
- Sep 15 First Day of RE Classes
- Sep 22 RE Classes
- Sep 29 RE Classes

REflections: Religious Education Update

They say that it takes a village to raise a child. (Honestly, I think it takes a village to do most things.) We are pretty amazing beings able to accomplish a lot on our own, but there is something special that we create when we work together, something that we can create that is different and often better than what we can do alone. But it isn't just a matter of the number of people that make the difference, but their relationship to one another. When we come together to support one another in this way we go from people to family. And when family bands together, the possibilities are powerful as these relationships bring forth care.



This month we are celebrating some powerful bonds. We will have our Ingathering to draw our family together, a picnic to celebrate with one another, a teacher dedication as we recognize all the time and effort we bring, and the start of classes as we rebuild friendships. We also are celebrating the care and attention Steve and Linda Sander have put into these newsletters for so long and the bonds they have helped us form in this congregation through these *Fellowtarians*. We are ever grateful for their support, and we band together again to see what will come next.

Families, we will continue to grow into this village of UCWC, building one another up in care in new ways. As we explore these, we encourage you to keep an eye on our weekly Connections emails, the website, our communication app (see below), and more to stay tuned to what is coming.

Cassie Lengel , Email: DLFD

Blessing of the Bags and Backpacks

As Bilbo Baggins said in *The Lord of the Rings*, "It's a dangerous business going out your front door. You step out on the road, and if you don't know your feet, there's no knowing where you might be swept off to." We all leave our homes to go out into the world – be it school or work, visits or vacations, and even just groceries or exercise. Whatever it may be, when we go out, we take things with us – from keys to phones to diapers and so much in between.



Here at UCWC we want you to participate in a special ritual to bless the bags we use to carry things with us, knowing that each time we go out into the world we will take the love and care of our community with us as we go.

So bring your bags of any sort, virtual bags work too, and let us fill them with blessings at our Ingathering service on September 8.

Teacher Training

Calling all teachers! You are invited to join us on Saturday, September 14, from 10:00 am to noon for a teacher training. We have so much to bring to you for support, policies for safety, suggestions for teaching, and hands on practice.

Teaching RE is a kind of spiritual practice that should be life-giving and fill up your spiritual cup as we learn, play, and create together with our children. Come see what we are doing this year and help us find ways to let your passion and skills shine through.

Join Our BAND Communication App

This year we are going to try something new. The RE Committee has been researching a few different communication apps, and we would like to bring the BAND app to our RE families. This app – BAND – can be used on your phone or via a web browser. It will be a central hub for us to offer the latest updates, host our RE Calendar and signups, offer chat and messaging, and hold files and photo albums.

It will be a curated and safe space just for our families to connect and should enhance our communication about happenings without being overwhelming or getting lost in our emails. We will send out the invitations for you to join shortly, and we hope you will try it out with us.

Our Whole Lives

Every few years we offer a special program for our 8th and 9th graders, called *Our Whole Lives*, in which we explore a healthy relationship with sexuality and yourself. This program goes through some of the basic biology of our bodies, but goes further to practice living our values, making hard decisions, what healthy relationships look like, how we relate to portrayals in the media, dismantling myths, and more to foster safety and responsibility.

Please see *Connections* for our parent orientation and come learn more about this program – we will offer sign-up materials there, so you do not need to be fully committed to attend. If you know of any families with 8th and 9th graders who may be interested, please contact email: DLFD, so we can keep them in the loop.

Social Justice

Diversity Book Group

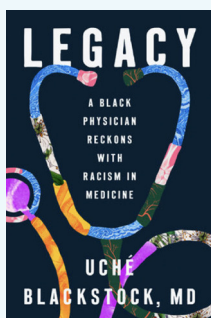
Sun, Sep 8 7:00-8:30
Led by Sandy Schaal

Legacy by Uché Blackstock

Legacy is Dr. Blackstock's odyssey from child to medical student to practicing physician – to finally seizing her own power as a health equity advocate against the backdrop of the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Growing up in Brooklyn, New York, it never occurred to Uché Blackstock and her twin sister, Oni, that they would be anything but physicians. In the 1980s, their mother headed an organization of Black women physicians, and for years the girls watched these fiercely intelligent women in white coats tend to their patients and neighbors, host community health fairs, cure ills, and save lives.

Continued on Page 8...



UUSC Update

The [Unitarian Universalist Service Committee](#) (UUSC) has issued an Emergency Response Alert for donations to our Emergency Response Fund which currently helps people in Sudan, Ukraine, Haiti, and Burma. UUSC's [Emergency Response Fund](#) delivers humanitarian aid through its grassroots partners where people are facing extreme violence and urgent threats to their safety. Please donate [here](#).



UUSC uses a [Disaster Justice](#) framework, which UUSC developed in collaboration with its partners and allies. Like mainstream humanitarian aid agencies, they respond to immediate needs in the wake of a crisis; yet, unlike those organizations, they also focus on removing barriers that prevent equal access to resources.

Their response evolves to meet essential needs as they change, including access to clean water, food, shelter, and other aid, as well as strengthening protections for people at risk for gender-based violence and combating the displacement of Black, People of Color, LGBTQI+, migrants, and refugees.

You can donate to UUSC's ongoing work around the world [here](#). You will be providing resources to our grassroots partners, assisting them in developing sustainable solutions to the world's biggest problems. Your generosity changes lives by upholding the dignity and worth of all people.

Thank you.

Fun & Fellowship

Labor Day Song Circle

Come join a special song circle with Rev. Dan on Sunday, September 1, after the service. Bring your favorite song about work or labor, an instrument, or just your voice. All are welcome, whether or not you have a song to contribute.



First Friday Game Night

You're invited to join us on Friday, September 6, at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary for fun and games of all sorts and sizes. This month in particular 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.



Folk Singing

The next folk singing get-together will be Saturday, September 14, at 7:30 pm at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. We will spend most of the time preparing for our September 29 Sunday service.

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. Due to the recent Covid surge, please test before coming or wear a mask. Contact Steve Sander at email: folk-singing.



Wilkommen, Bienvenue, Welcome!

It's time to celebrate our new church year, with our annual Ingathering Picnic.

Please join us on Sunday, September 8, after the service (11:30-ish) at East Goshen Park (Veterans Pavilion). We will have sandwiches and ice water to start, and we rely on you all for sides, salads, and desserts.

We will have a variety of Minute-to-Win-It games for young and old.

I will have a signup Genius set up for those who are organized enough to know what they'd like to bring, but please don't feel obliged to fill it out. Also, please join us if this is your first time with us, or you just plain forgot to bring a dish. We always have enough for all.

Please bring a lawn game if interested or your musical instrument, and maybe we can get a good session going.

Directions

East Goshen Township Park is located on Paoli Pike, just east of 352. From the southwest entrance (coming from West Chester), drive through the parking lot and turn left after the tennis courts – the Veterans Pavilion will be on the left. From the northeast entrance, turn right and drive to the pavilion on the right.

Please contact Lauren at email: fun for questions or information.



Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

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

THE AUCTION IS COMING!



See Page 3

Diversity Book Group

Continued from p. 6

What Dr. Uché Blackstock did not understand as a child, or learn about at Harvard Medical School, were the profound and long-standing systemic inequities that mean just 2 percent of all U.S. physicians today are Black women, and that those racist practices and policies ensure that Black Americans have far worse health outcomes than any other group in the country.

Ask Debby Kern to be put on the email list for the Zoom link.

- Sep 1 Sun **Labor Day Song Circle.** After the service. See p. 7.
- Sep 2 Mon **Racial Justice Ministry.** 5:00 pm. Zoom. Contact email: [racial-justice](#) for more information.
- Sep 3 Tue **Executive Committee Meeting.** 7:00 pm. Zoom.
- Sep 6 Fri **Criminal Justice Reform Team.** 4:30 pm.
- Sep 8 Sun **Men's Group.** 7:00 pm. Sanctuary (No Zoom). See p. 3.
- Sep 8 Sun **Game Night.** 7:00 pm. Sanctuary. See p. 7.
- Sep 9 Mon **Ingathering Picnic.** After the service. East Goshen Park. See p. 7.
- Sep 10 Tue **Diversity Book Group.** 7:00 pm. See p. 6.
- Sep 14 Sat **Religious Services Committee.** 7:00 pm. Zoom.
- Sep 15 Sun **Executive Council.**
- Sep 16 Mon **RE Teacher Training.** 10:00-noon. See p. 5.
- Sep 17 Tue **Folk Singing.** 7:30 pm. Home of Linda and Steve Sander. See p. 7.
- Sep 18 Wed **First Day of Religious Education.** See p. 5.
- Sep 22 Sun **Share the Plate Sunday.** Benefits Friends Association for Care and Protection of Children.
- Sep 23 Mon **Racial Justice Ministry.** 5:00 pm. Zoom. Contact email: [racial-justice](#) for more information.
- Sep 24 Tue **Adult Religious Education Meeting.** 4:00 pm. Zoom.
- Sep 29 Sun **Board Meeting.** 6:00 pm. Zoom.
- Oct 1 Tue **UUJusticePA Reproductive Justice Meeting.** 7:30 pm. Zoom.
- Oct 1 Tue **Auction Donation Drop-off.** See p. 3.
- Oct 1 Tue **Committee on Ministry.** 7:00 pm. Zoom.
- Oct 1 Tue **UUJusticePA Gun Violence Prevention Team.** 7:00 pm. Zoom. Contact Tom Buglio at email: [gun-safety](#).
- Oct 1 Tue **Auction Donation Drop-off.** See p. 3.
- Oct 1 Tue **Last Day for Your Auction Donation to be in the Catalog.** See p. 3.

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. 3.
- Women's Group.** Walks on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Monthly lunch gatherings. Contact email: [womens-group](#).

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* Editors email: [fellowtarian](#)