

 **the**
FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester

Web Edition – No personal phone numbers or addresses

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SUNDAY SERVICES

May, 2006

May 7

PLANTED IN THE LAND OF FAITHFULNESS

Rev. Larry Smith

“Faith” is a word that some Unitarian Universalists shun and others embrace. The bumper sticker on my car is from the “Uncommon Denomination” publicity kit and it reads, “Different People. Different Beliefs. One Faith.” Is it possible to have “faith” in our religious movement?

May 14

NURTURE DAY

UFWC Members

Traditionally, we associate caring and nurturing with women in general and mothers specifically. On this Mother’s Day, an intergenerational panel (not all mothers!!) will talk about what it is to nurture and be nurtured. Lori Ratajczak, Rob Sartain and one other member will share the role of nurturing in their lives.

May 21

PRO PATRIA MORI: TO DIE FOR ONE’S COUNTRY

Rev. Larry Smith

This week before the Memorial Day weekend we will consider the cost of war. What is worth fighting for?

May 28

GENOCIDE AND MY SPIRITUAL PATH

Eugenie Mukeshimana

Our hearts filled with horror at the senseless murders of hundreds of thousands of Rwandans. Eugenie is our friend and a West Chester University graduate student in Genocide Studies who lost many of her family and friends. Still, her spirit survived and strengthened in the years that have followed. Please join us to share the uplifting story of a Rwandan who survived the managed genocide that claimed a million of innocent lives in a three-month period.

Services, Religious Education & Babysitting at 9 AM and 11 AM

FROM YOUR INTERIM MINISTER

By the time this column reaches you Easter will be over, the trees will be full of light green, fresh leaves, the cold days will be past. The changing of the seasons reveals the changes in the life of the church as well. In the past month you have worked on going to policy governance, heard from the Ministerial Search Committee that a candidate for your settled ministry has not been found and learned that you would need to find another interim minister as I would not be with you the next church year. That is quite a lot for one month. As I prepared my interim minister's

report for the board meeting in the beginning of April I looked through my appointment book at the month of April. I was astonished by how distant the events of only thirty days ago seemed as I reviewed them. Much happened during those four weeks.

And much will be happening in the month of May. In May the Interim Ministry Search Committee will be seeking an interim minister to be with you during the 2006-2007 year. Different committees will be preparing for the summer schedule and the reactivation that occurs in September.

In the midst of all of this activity you might notice that I am withdrawing a bit. It is the time of our ministry together for me to begin to withdraw and start to process of closure. Our time together is near its end, and it is only right for me to make a place for your next interim minister by not being too involved in your future plans. If we stayed together through a third year it would be

more difficult for the next settled minister to enter the congregation. As one of my colleagues told me at the JPD Annual Conference, "If you're there for three years, you're no longer an interim minister." He is right, of course. It is time for you to welcome your next interim minister.

And, if you have not imagined it, I might be withdrawing also because I am about to be married and wedding plans have the tendency to dominate all my thoughts. In the past few days I have temporarily lost my cell phone and appointment book — twice each!

My thoughts are running together and I can no longer remember conversations, even important ones. In other words, I am the typical groom.

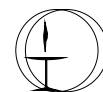
The wedding will be May 28, at 2 p.m. at the Unitarian Society of Germantown (6511 Lincoln

Drive, Philadelphia.) Members and friends of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester are invited to attend the ceremony, but not the reception. If you need directions, contact the church office or me, or do an internet search. Jennifer and I will be pleased if you can come to share in our joyful commitment. The officiant will be my housemate from theological school, the Rev. Louise Ulrich.

At this point I face an uncertain future vocationally. I am sure that something will turn up — it always does. In a sense, at this point I am a bit like the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester in my journey. We can be uncertain about the future but still be certain that we do not face that uncertainty alone. In these uncertain times we can take comfort from the fact that the bonds of love and commitment that have sustained us in the past will sustain us in the present and into the future.

— See you in churches,
Larry

"We can be uncertain about the future but still be certain that we do not face that uncertainty alone."



ANNUAL MEETING

The Board has set Sunday evening, June 4, for the date of our annual congregational meeting. We thought we'd "sweeten the pot" (or let you do the same) with one of our famously delicious potlucks at 5:30 p.m. followed by the meeting at 6:30.

At that time, we will vote on the 2006-07 budget, fill vacancies on the Board of Trustees, and approve several committee chairs as required by our Bylaws. We'll also be approving our delegates to General Assembly (held later in June). Please plan to join us for food and fellowship and the meeting afterward. Babysitting will be provided.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

“Life happens when you’re making plans.” That expression frequently comes to mind when I have to stand back and rethink a situation because the unexpected has occurred.

“Life” happened to the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester last month. As we were preparing with excitement for welcoming a new settled minister, we learned that our Search Committee would be unable to bring a candidate forward. As you all probably know by now, the Committee felt a strong call to one candidate, who was equally interested in our Fellowship but was also offered a call to another congregation.

After much soul-searching, this candidate gave up the opportunity to come to West Chester. A second well-qualified candidate also accepted another congregation.

Disappointing? Of course. But what ultimately matters is not this unexpected turn of events – it’s how we have reacted to it. And the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester has reacted beautifully, with acceptance, support, and understanding of the Search Committee’s decision.

It would have been oh-so-easy for the Search Committee to avoid disappointing the congregation and come forward with a candidate who was not the right fit. But the committee wisely understood that a wrong fit could have negative repercussions for years to come, and they took the more difficult path. I sense that all of you understood and appreciated this act of courage on the part of the committee. It’s just one more indication of how healthy we are as a congregation, how willing we are to accept change

(even when it comes from the most unexpected corner), and how supportive we are of one another.

This does not mean that there were not and might not continue to be questions – some of which may be answered when the Search Committee leads a service on April 30 on “Sharing the Journey.” If questions and concerns remain after that, I encourage you to voice them, either to Search Committee Chair Jim MacFadyen or to myself. Open and honest communication has always been a hallmark of our congregation, and it is certainly called for here.

Meanwhile, we are moving forward with finding an interim minister to serve us for next year. Mike Miller, Gerry Geiss, Kate Cuifari and Deanna Koepke have agreed to serve on an Interim Task Force that will conduct this search. Coordinated through the UUA Settlement Office in Boston, the process is far more abbreviated and less time-consuming than the process that leads to calling a settled minister.

The Task Force will receive candidates from the Settlement Office, will review those candidates, exchange packets, and conduct interviews. They will then recommend an interim minister to the Board, hopefully in May, and the Board will act on that recommendation.

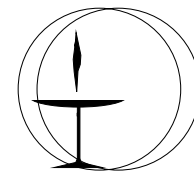
I anticipate that the Board will be announcing the appointment of the new interim before the summer. He/she will begin the year’s ministry with the Fellowship in August. This procedure and timeline mirrors what was done when Larry Smith came to our congregation two years ago.

What can you do? Continue to bring your energy and enthusiasm to the Fellowship. Help out where you can. Remain focused on the goals we have set. Remember that the path we have laid out for ourselves has not really changed; we have simply given ourselves an extra year to travel on that path before we call a settled minister. In some respects, it will work to our (and the future minister’s) benefit.

For instance, we will have an additional year to work with our new governance structure – which will then be more firmly in place and better defined when we call a settled minister. Your Bridging Team will be working with the Board to strengthen leadership development – another critical area that we will have at least partially addressed before a settled minister arrives. We will be enclosing our porch and refurbishing some areas of our building - making it all the more attractive for our new minister. And finally, we will be allocating money from the Chalice Lighters grant - which will support our continued growth through the year.

Other as yet unknown challenges may present themselves in the coming year. If we approach them with the same resilient spirit and caring commitment we’ve demonstrated throughout this past year, we can’t help but succeed.

— See you in church,
Flo Miller



BOARD RECOGNITIONS

The Board this month wants to thank and recognize the entire Youth Group and their leaders for earning the third consecutive YES (Youth Empowering and Supportive Congregation) Award from our Joseph Priestley District of UU congregations. They have indeed brought honor to our Fellowship with this outstanding achievement. In fact, the only other congregation in the entire Metro Philadelphia-Wilmington area to have earned this award is First Church in Wilmington, and they received it only once.

The award recognizes our Fellowship for supporting our very active youth group in numerous activities, including social action projects, fund-raisers for worthy causes, social events, worship, and demonstrated leadership within the denomination. Congrats to the young people and their leaders: Rob Sartain, Mike Werner, Kate Cuffari, Scott Klaum, and Jerry Geiss.

The award was presented at the recent spring conference of the JPD in Arlington, VA. Rob Sartain received it on behalf of the Fellowship. Other Fellowship members at the conference were Erach Patel, Sue Stedman, Tom Townsend (representing the UUSC for the district), Flo Miller, Pam Baxter, and our minister, Larry Smith. We have been in the process of renewing our denominational connections over the past few years, and the Board appreciates the interest and involvement demonstrated by these Fellowship members and by others who have attended district conferences and workshops recently.

Thanks are in order for two other noteworthy efforts:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

APRIL 11, 2006

The Board of Trustees met on the evening of Tuesday, April 11. The bulk of the meeting was spent discussing matters relating to the search for a new interim minister.

A motion was passed approving the appointments of Kate Cuffari, Gerry Geiss, Deanna Koepcke, and Mike Miller to what will be called the "Interim Task Force". This group is charged with finding a new interim minister to serve for one year while the search for a settled minister continues. Cheryl Pittenger volunteered to serve as liaison with the Board of Trustees.

Erach Patel presented a compensation package created by the Finance Committee that will be offered to the new interim minister. The Board approved the package via another motion.

Mike Miller was in attendance representing the newly appointed Interim Task Force. A discussion ensued touching upon several matters related to the search for an interim minister, including contract details and UFWC goals during the next period of interim ministry. Reverend Smith provided information on the details of the search and hiring process.

– Paul Sapko, Secretary



Cathy Vogt, Heidi Frayer, Sharon Mayer-Conroy and Marie Steel from the Religious Education Committee have been meeting with RE Director Pam Baxter the first Monday of the month to do basic maintenance and cleanup in the RE space. They clean out the refrigerator, scrub the snack preparation area and kids' bathroom, empty trash and tackle special areas that need attention. They've unpacked books and curricula in Pam's office, for instance, and organized the supply closet. They were not "recruited" to do this work but volunteered on their own because they saw a job that needed to be done. Their efforts are helping to keep our RE space neat, clean, and well organized for the

influx of children and teachers every Sunday.

And have you noticed that the front doorknob is FINALLY working? After years of giving people trouble, the doorknob finally rebelled and refused to work at all – except through a hastily contrived system that involved pulling on a string while opening and closing the door. Thanks to the Building Committee and specifically Wayne Bullaughey for taking the entire doorknob apart and rebuilding it into a better functioning, solid doorknob for us.

— Flo Miller
for the Board of Trustees

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

THE VALUE OF INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICES

Intergenerational services – services that are planned specifically for both adults and children – have never been particularly highlighted at our Fellowship. I think that’s unfortunate.

I believe that “Intergens,” as we often call them, provide many benefits for our children. Through intergenerational services, children

- gain the valuable experience of being part of the congregation, in our sanctuary setting
- learn to feel welcome among the adults
- become aware that we are all seeking for spiritual truths, whatever our age
- see that while there are certain things we learn while apart most Sunday mornings, occasionally we come together to share with and learn from each other
- develop the understanding that there is a place for them when they “graduate” from the RE Program

Intergens are not “fluff” services. Larry and I plan them carefully to provide real meaning and value to both children and adults. For the children, it’s a way that we can introduce more advanced concepts. For adults, it can be a reminder that seeing with the eyes of a child can be an asset on a spiritual journey.

The more formal setting itself – where children are sitting with their parent(s) and not distracted by their peers – can help children absorb a message. I look forward to these opportunities to reach out in a different way to the young minds and hearts that come

through our doors for a short time each week.

Intergenerational services also help erase the notion that religious education only happens downstairs. They convey, through a different setting, the fact that religious education/religious exploration/spiritual searching happens throughout our lives; that we’re in the journey together. And when families share in an experience, there can be much to ask and talk about afterwards.

“Intergens are not “fluff” services. Larry and I plan them carefully to provide real meaning and value to both children and adults”

The very positive feedback following the intergenerational service on April 9 lets me know we’re on the right track in using intergens as part of our goals for religious education. For this particular Palm Sunday service, Larry had the idea of presenting the story of Jesus’ return to Jerusalem – where Jesus knew he faced probable death – as a story of courage. Using that as a starting point, we could talk about different ways of finding courage: prayer, meditation, song, affirmations, and . . . chocolate!

Using his own experience, Larry described the premise and power of prayer, going through all

the elements and creating a simple outline that anyone could use. I followed with a guided meditation, to introduce/confirm a tool for quieting and strengthening the mind. Larry followed with another personal experience focusing on the use of hymn or song. And


then we passed out Eggs of Encouragement, filled with candy and UU affirmations.

I encourage you to keep coming to our intergenerational services with your children. They will receive something valuable that

cannot be gained through an RE class or through a group RE project. There is no substitute for experiencing a worship service with one’s family, as part of the larger congregation. I also encourage our congregants without young children to attend. Our children benefit when exposed to all of our members and friends. In fact, make it a point to chat with our young ones after any service – you may find that they impart something valuable to you.

See you around the Fellowship!

— Pam Baxter
Director of Religious Ed.



Don't forget to bring your check-book on May 7, the day of the Plant Sale. See p. 10 for details and the pre-order form.

MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

As you know by now, our congregation's search for a settled minister will continue for a second year. This is disappointing for everyone, as there is much that we want to begin to do, and some of these projects must wait until we have a settled minister.

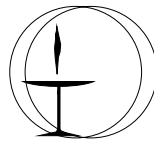
We want to express our appreciation to the Board and to all members of the Congregation for their understanding and compassion during what was, for us, a rather stressful month of March. Although we did not anticipate this outcome, we did know from the beginning that it was a possibility, and we were counseled not to call a minister if we felt that the match would not be a very good one. Our disappointment is tem-

pered by having had the opportunity to speak with and meet a number of fine ministers who had a genuine interest in our congregation. This experience and your encouragement convince us that the search for the right minister will be successful next year.

The search committee will lead the Sunday morning services on April 30. We will talk about what we have learned about ministry, about our congregation, and about how we

have been changed by our participation in this process. We hope you will be able to join us.

Finally, we want to express our deep gratitude to Rev. Larry Smith and Rev. Kate Rohde for the many, many hours they spent on the phone talking with the ministers we were considering for our congregation. They presented our congregation in the best possible way and encouraged some very fine ministers to consider coming to West Chester. Thank you.



HAVE YOU MET LYLA KAPLAN?

Lyla Kaplan joined the UFWC last September to fulfill a mission: to have a community that nurtures spirituality, tolerance, diversity, compassion and the healthy act of questioning.

Self-described as introverted yet sociable, and fun-loving yet serious, Lyla lives with her son, (who, incidentally, loves the weekly renditions of *This Little Light of Mine*); her husband, an assistant professor of psychology; and two "silly Australian Shepherds".

A "house mom," studio potter and local community counselor for a national au pair agency, Lyla is active with the Moms for the Future grassroots group and enjoys Japanese anime and outings to Philly. You may also have spotted her singing with the UFWC choir.

When asked what else she'd like people to know about her, Lyla points to another mission close to her heart: summoning support on a local level. Toward that end, she encourages others interested in collective bulk buying to contact her to discuss ideas.

"The more I'm learning," she shares, "the more I want to support and educate about local sustainability."

"The more I'm learning, the more I want to support and educate about local sustainability."

— Sharon Breske

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY SPECIAL OFFER CONTINUES

In May, we continue our effort to expose and promote the Small Group Ministry program. During the month of May the meetings will again be held jointly and will be open to all UFWC members and friends. On these days we will try to form into random groups of 6-10 people for discussion of the topics listed below. The meetings will be on the second and fourth Thursdays (May 11 and May 25) from 7-9 p.m. We hope that you will join us to get a taste of the Small Group Ministry process.

The topics for the May meetings will be:

May 11 Books That Have Changed My Life

May 25 Living with Uncertainty

For more information about these topics, check the Small Group Ministry link on our home page, www.ufwc.org.

UFWC READS MICHAEL LERNER

Lerner is the most significant prophetic public intellectual and spiritual leader of our generation. Secular intellectuals and those who yearn for a major change in the direction of American society must read this book – and join with religious and spiritual people to build the kind of strategy Lerner develops.

– Cornel West, author of *Democracy Matters*

The Social Justice committee approved the sponsorship of a fall discussion group on Michael Lerner's book, *The Left Hand of God, Taking Back Our Country From the Religious Right*. The committee has purchased six copies that will be available in the Fellowship library. A planning committee will organize the book's discussion. Be sure to put *The Left Hand of God* on your summer reading list and join the discussion in September.

Many of the ideas in Lerner's book have great potential for us and were developed in conjunction with the Tikkun Community and the Network of Spiritual Progressives. Their web page (www.spiritualprogressives.org) includes information about them and their upcoming Spiritual Activism Conference, May 17-20 at All Souls UU Church in Washington, DC. UUA President William Sinkford and two other UU ministers are scheduled to speak.

The planning committee hopes that the book and the discussions will lead to a social justice vision for the Fellowship and ultimately to a long-term plan for how we can act to promote social justice. Contact Linda Sander or Susan Gast.

UUSC

Membership in OUR charity, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), is down this year. Last year 76% of us were members. If we don't surpass that mark, it will be the first time in four years that our membership percentage has decreased.

So join or renew your membership by June 30. It costs just \$40 per adult or \$75 per couple, and can be paid monthly.

For details see the website (www.uusc.org) or Rob Sartain or Tom Townsend, email: uusc.



**Buy your
Fairly Traded
coffee and tea
in the lobby.**

UU MINISTER TO SPEAK

On Wednesday, April 26, at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship the Rev. Marie de Young will speak on "Can Profiteers be Patriotic?" Rev. de Young is a former UU minister and is currently a member of the Media church. As a civilian she worked for Halliburton. Subsequently, she became a successful "whistleblower" before the Congress, and she was featured in *Vanity Fair* and on NBC and CBS. Her presentation will concentrate on this phase of her life. This presentation is being sponsored by the Chester County Peace Movement.

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

April was a fun month. We planned an excellent Concert event on the 21st for the benefit of the Heifer Project. We hoped to raise enough for a water buffalo, an actual heifer and perhaps a "knitting basket" — two llamas and two sheep. The door count was not complete at press time.

Even more fun was planning for Youth Sunday on the 23rd. By the time we completed planning, we had over a hundred questions to ask Larry. Some of them could take days to answer. We welcomed two new members: Kelia Scott and Max Williams — Excellent!

And then comes May, when we begin to wind down. Senior and Junior Proms come up fast, along with the SATs for the juniors in the group. For the seniors, the last finals are right around the corner, along with graduation and an end to their High School career. But there is still time for some fun — like costume bowling, perhaps a movie or two, a long awaited hike, and even a float down the Brandywine.

Watch this space. The Youth Group is open to all eighth through twelfth grade youth affiliated with the UFWC. We meet virtually every Sunday, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the basement. Interested? E-mai: youth-group.

UFWC FLEA MARKET DONATIONS

We Need Your Stuff!

Here is your chance to clear out, clean up and start living the uncluttered life! Keep our Spring Flea Market in mind while you tackle your Spring Cleaning. Things that have been sitting neglected or just taking up space in your closets, garage or basement are someone else's treasures. Your donations to the Spring Flea Market will benefit UFWC and unclutter your life at the same time.

We will need volunteers for several tasks, from intake of donations on Thursday evening through clean-up on Saturday afternoon. Flea market work crews have always had a lot of fun while making this mammoth sale a success for UFWC.

As you gather your donations, take an unbiased look. Please screen them and donate only good-quality, ready-for-sale items. We want this to be a nice experience for patrons and a small job for the clean-up committee. Experience tells us that when you are selective about your donations, we're able to sell a larger percentage of them. Here is what sells really well:

- Clean, ironed, in-season clothes, preferably with all buttons!
- Jewelry and artwork
- Children's toys and books — clean and in good condition
- Games and puzzles, for both children & adults (no missing pieces, please)
- Appliances and tools (**working condition** only)
- Housewares, except individual mugs or glasses (complete sets OK)
- Electronics – nothing obsolete
- Interesting books only (no textbooks, encyclopedias, books

in bad condition) – please be **VERY** selective.

- Tapes, videos, CD's, DVD's, etc.
- Holiday and specialty items (be selective, please!)
- Bicycles and exercise equipment
- Furniture and rugs—*but if it requires more than one person to carry, you must guarantee to remove it Saturday noon if it doesn't sell!*

If it is soiled, stained, torn, obsolete, broken or non-functioning please toss it—we won't be able to sell it. Shoes are also a hard sell — unless they are exceptionally nice, don't bring them.

Flea market volunteers please contact Krystaleve Snow (email: flea-market) with the dates and times you are available. Other questions about the flea market go to Sue Stedman (email: flea-market).

FLEA MARKET VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Flea Market volunteers are needed during the following times:

- Thu, May 18 6-7 pm Set up tables
Thu, May 18 7-9 pm Help people drop off and sort their stuff
Fri, May 19 9 am-2pm Price items (with a break to join the Lunch group at La Tolteca in West Chester)
Sat, May 20 7:30 am-noon Help with sale (sale hours 8 am - noon)
Sat, May 20 noon-2 pm Clean up (approximate time)

To volunteer, sign up at the Fellowship, or contact Krystaleve Snow (email: flea-market).

FLEA MARKET DROP-OFF PROCEDURE

Your cooperation will make the job of the volunteers easier.

When you arrive at the Fellowship to drop off your items on Thursday evening, the tables will be set up and labeled by category (clothes, toys, housewares, etc.).

Please place your items on the **appropriate table** — volunteers will be there to help. (If you have time, you can stay awhile and help, too.)

If you have any questions contact Krystaleve Snow or Sue Stedman or email (email: flea-market).

YOUTH MINISTRY CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION Sunday, May 21, 12:30-4 p.m., Lunch & Snacks Provided

Ministry with youth is about listening, empowerment and spiritual guidance. It is instrumental to the vitality and growth of Unitarian Universalist communities. The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations has embarked on a two-year process to revitalize and strengthen youth ministry. Our congregation's engagement in the process is essential to its success. The Consultation To and With Youth is designed to be a grassroots process that begins with input from individuals and congregations and progresses to districts and the organizations that provide services and support to the congregations. It is an inclusive and transformative process.

The first step our congregation took was to ensure that our youth between the ages of 12 and 20 received and completed a survey. The survey asked about their experience with youth ministry and the ways in which they are or have been involved in Unitarian Universalism. Along with youth from the Fellowship, over 1,400 youth from across the country responded to the survey.

The Fellowship's next step will be an opportunity for listening, dialogue, visioning and strategizing at our intergenerational Youth Ministry Congregational Conversation on Sunday, May 21 from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., after the second service. Lunch and snacks will be provided. Because this conversation is about the life and vitality of our congregation as a whole, **everyone** is encouraged to attend and participate actively.

"We need everyone's involvement, not just youth and parents."

The conversation will be facilitated by a youth/adult pair who have been trained to facilitate a discussion on our congregational strengths compared to the forces that hold us back from excelling in youth ministry. From our congregation, two teams, Chili Shorten and Rob Sartain, plus Dave

Werner and Michael Werner, have been trained to facilitate conversations for other congre-

gations in our Joseph Priestley District; a youth and adult from another congregation will lead our conversation.

Please plan to attend the Congregational Conversation on Youth Ministry on May 21 after the second service. We need everyone's involvement, not just youth and parents, to succeed at strengthening our youth ministry to ensure we do the best we can to encourage our youth to become life-long Unitarian Universalists. Contact Rob Sartain.

CARING CORNER

Sue Yates, a member of our Fellowship for over fifty years, died on Wednesday afternoon, March 29, in Riddle Memorial Hospital following complications due to a fall earlier in the week. Sue and her husband, Howard, were active members in the early years of our Fellowship and through the 1980s. They helped shape the legacy we all enjoy today as a healthy, active congregation. As an avid quilter, Sue spearheaded the Fellowship quilting group that made many of the quilts that grace our sanctuary.

We send our condolences to Howard and the entire Yates family.

THANK YOU, MAILERS

Thank you to the *Fellowtarian* mailing crew for seeing that the *Fellowtarian* gets mailed out quickly each month. This is an activity that mixes work with fun and often ends with the group going out to lunch together afterwards. The schedule varies, so people come when they can. Special thanks to the crew leaders Deanna Koepcke, Jane Krick, and Sue Stedman. New organizers and crewmembers are always welcome. Email: fellowtarian-mailing.

—The Editors

Don't forget to buy grocery gift cards after the Sunday service.



LUNCH GROUP

Lunch group will meet May 19 at 11:30 a.m. at La Tolteca, 907 S. High Street, West Chester. Many lunch group members are planning to help price items for the Flea Market and to break for lunch at La Tolteca, which is not far from the Fellowship. If you would like to be added to the e-mail reminder list please e-mail: lunch-group.

SIMPLICITY CIRCLE

The next meeting is May 7 at 12:30 p.m. We will meet downstairs instead of in the sanctuary as before. Marilyn Gross will again guide our thinking. She has provided a series of questions for discussion and reflection dealing with communication patterns and resources that are part of our lives. Contact Heidi Buss (email: simplicity).

SUNDAY SEATING

Reminder: When you arrive for Sunday Services please try to find a seat near the front. Newcomers frequently prefer sitting in the back. If we want to be hospitable, we need to leave room for guests.

Please try to leave the back few rows and some seats on the aisles available for them and for late-comers. Otherwise, the room may look full and unwelcoming from the back even though there may be lots of empty seats near the front.

FOLK SINGING

Folk singing will be Saturday, May 6, at 8 p.m., at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. Come on out and have some fun. We have many songs that we like to sing: traditional and modern folk songs, as well as pop favorites. No talent or experience is necessary. Bring a munchie, if you wish. Maps available in the foyer. Contact Steve (email:folk-singing).



SPRING PLANT SALE

Sunday, May 7 8:30 am – 1 pm At the Fellowship

Annuals • Hanging Baskets • Native Perennials • Herbs • Vegetables



YOU CAN PRE-ORDER YOUR HANGING BASKETS TODAY:

- Beautiful Combination 10" Hanging Baskets
- Sunny (½ day sun or more) or Shady (½ day sun or less) mix of plants
- \$15 for your first basket; additional baskets \$13. Order in quantity and save!
- Orders must be received by May 1. Pay on pickup day.
- Complete form and mail to Sandy Retzlaff or contact Sandy Retzlaff (email: plant-sale).
- Pre-orders may be picked up Sunday, May 7 during the sale.
- **Come early, and choose from a great selection when you pick up your order.**

NAME _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

ITEM	QTY	EACH	TOTAL
First Basket (check type) <input type="checkbox"/> Sunny <input type="checkbox"/> Shady	1	15.00	15.00
Additional Sunny Baskets		13.00	
Additional Shady Baskets		13.00	
TOTAL ORDER – Pay on Pickup Day, May 7			

FELLOWSHIP PICNIC

Our annual Spring Picnic will be Sunday, May 28, at 12:30 p.m. at Hoopes Park in West Chester. Burgers, dogs, chicken and all the fixin's will be provided as well as vegetarian fare. Lemonade, tea, water, and all the paper products will be there; you can bring other beverages if you wish. We ask that everyone bring a salad or dessert to share.

There are basketball hoops, a baseball diamond, tennis courts, playground equipment, a pavilion, and plenty of frisbee space, so bring your sport stuff and any games you would like to play. This event is always lots of fun for the whole family. (In case of a downpour we will picnic at the Fellowship instead.) We will have a basket under the pavilion for donations to cover the cost of the food.

We ask that you sign-up on the roster in the lobby or respond to the email message which we will send out in May, so that we have an idea of how many are coming. Of course, latecomers are welcome, if you have a last minute change in plans. This event is organized by the Fun and Fellowship Committee. Maps to the park will be available on the table in the foyer in May. Contact Mary Yeager (email: fun).



Find your treasure

at the UFWC 2006



Spring Flea Market

Saturday, May 20 8 a.m. to Noon

See page 8 to find out how to
donate items and how to volunteer to help.

EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

On Sunday May 21 at 7:30 p.m. we will explore the immigrant experience in the beautifully written *The Namesake: A Novel* by Pulitzer Prize winning author Jhumpa Lahiri. Lahiri tells the tale of a newly arrived immigrant couple from Calcutta struggling to make their arranged marriage work in new and foreign Cambridge, Massachusetts. The birth and naming of their first child Gogol begins the story of his challenging life as a first generation American who is not quite American and not quite Indian. The ensuing generational conflict is a major part of this intimate family portrait. Fatima Patel will lead the discussion.



Contact Ruth MacFadyen or Shelly Case (email: diversity-book-group). This will be our last meeting for this Fellowship year. We will resume in September.

POTLUCK AND GAME NIGHT

Please join us Friday night, May 5, at 6:30 p.m. for a Potluck & Game Night at the Fellowship. This gathering is not just for kids or families; everyone young or old is welcome. Bring a dish and beverage to share. Paper products will be provided. No need to call ahead; just come. Come, relax, and enjoy the company if you wish or learn a new game or play an old favorite. Contact Mary Yeager (email: fun).

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

- Apr 26 Wed** **Rev. Marie de Young speaks on “Can Profiteers be Patriotic?”** 7:00 p.m. See p. 7. (Last-minute addition to April Calendar).
- May 1 Mon** **Spring Plant Sale.** Deadline for pre-orders. See p. 10.
Finance Committee. 7:30 p.m. Contact Erach Patel, email: finance.
- May 3 Wed** **RE Committee Meeting.** 7-9 p.m., Fellowship OWL room. Contact Cathy Vogt, email: RE.
- May 4 Thu** **Religious Services Committee.** 7:30 p.m. Contact Craig Talbot, email: religious-services.
- May 5 Fri** **Potluck and Game Night.** 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. See p. 11.
- May 6 Sat** **Folk Singing.** 8 p.m. at the home of Steve and Linda Sander. See p. 10.
- May 7 Sun** **Spring Plant Sale.** 8:30 a.m. to 1p.m. See p. 10.
Simplicity Circle Meeting. 12:30 p.m. downstairs. See p. 10.
Social Justice Committee Meeting. 7:30-9 p.m., fireplace room. Contact Tom Townsend, email: social-justice.
- May 9 Tue** **Board Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship office. All are welcome.
- May 11 Thu** **Small Group Ministry Open Meeting.** 7-9 p.m. All UFWC members and friends are welcome. See p. 6.
- May 12 Fri** **Chester County Peace Movement Film Night.** *Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room*, 7:30 p.m., sanctuary.
- May 14 Sun** **Safe Harbor Dinner.** Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. Contact Catherine Sachs, email: safe-harbor.
- May 18 Thu** **Flea Market Drop-off and Sorting.** 7-9 p.m. See p. 8 for drop-off procedure.
- May 19 Fri** **Flea Market Pricing.** 9 am – 2 pm. See p. 8.
Lunch Group. 11:30 p.m. at La Tolteca in West Chester. See p. 10.
- May 20 Sat** **Annual Flea Market.** 8 a.m. to noon. See p. 8.
- May 21 Sun** **Youth Ministry Congregational Conversation.** 12:30p.m. to 4 p.m. See p. 9.
Exploring Diversity Book Discussion Group. 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the fireplace room. See p. 11.
- May 23 Tue** **Building Committee Meeting.** 7 p.m. in the fireplace room. Contact Tilo Stahl or Bob Radcliff, email: building.
- May 25 Thu** **Small Group Ministry Open Meeting.** 7-9 p.m. All UFWC members and friends are welcome. See p. 6.
- May 27 Sat** **Lunch for the Needy.** Provided by our Fellowship at the Salvation Army. Contact Catherine Sachs, email: salvation-army.
- May 28 Sun** **Annual Spring Picnic.** 12:30 p.m. at Hoopes Park. See p.11.
- June 4 Sun** **Annual Meeting and Potluck.** Potluck at 5:30 p.m. Meeting at 6:30. See p. 2.

Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

- Choir Practice** First and third Thursdays of the month, 7:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. Email: choir.
- Yoga** Thursdays 6-7 p.m. in the basement.
- Youth Group** Most Sunday evenings, 6-7:30 p.m., OWL/Youth Group rm. See p. 7.