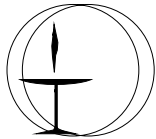


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Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester

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SUNDAY SERVICES August, 2009

August 2

DANCE IS LIFE

Janet Peck

Experience the expressive power of African dance. Connect with your heart as Janet Peck and the Unitarian drummers inspire you to be your fullest YOU. Come dressed to dance and prepared for fun.

August 9

FOLK SINGING FOR JUSTICE

UFWC Folk Singing Group

The UFWC folk singing interest group invites you to sing along as they perform songs of Social Justice.

August 16

ON VALUING DIVERSITY

Rob Sartain

Unitarian Universalists treasure diversity. We take pride in stepping outside our comfort zones, but not too much, please. Why does diversity matter? What does it mean to be genuinely diverse with honesty and integrity?

August 23

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Tilo Stahl

Amnesty International has been championing human rights for nearly 50 years. The service will link Amnesty International's mission to the UU principles and will investigate their joint history. The Amnesty Jazz Band will provide music.

August 30

SUMMER GLEANINGS

Rev. Deborah Mero

This will be a summer filled with some great weather, some interesting sights and insights, and travel to see friends and learn new things. As I wind down at the end of it all, what will I have gleaned from it all? Whatever it is, I will share those things that stand out and provide food for the new Fellowship year. When we all return on September 13, I hope you will be willing to share some of your summer gleanings as well.

SUMMER SERVICES -- ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10 A.M.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The new Board is excitingly planning for the upcoming year. Although we did not have a formal meeting in July, we found that we can rely on e-mail for effective communication.

As I write this article, I am looking forward to my week ahead. Deborah and I are attending a seminar on Appreciative Inquiry given by the Alban Institute. Appreciative Inquiry is a philosophy and positive approach to deal with challenges in an organization. The

three-day program will give us time to think through and practice designing an Appreciative Inquiry process. My hope is that we can gain skills that will aid our work as we move forward in our efforts to continue to be a vibrant and growing congregation.

In mid-August, the Board and the Executive Team will attend a retreat to give us extended time to focus on our work. At the retreat, we will write a covenant statement which will describe how we will act towards one another and which will provide guidelines for our meetings.

A strong Board needs the input from all members of the congregation. The Board is committed to communicating what we are doing.

Reverend Richard Speck, District Executive of the Joseph Priestly District, will join us for part of the time. We have invited Richard to review our work on policy governance and to provide advice if

needed.

At the leadership retreat, we also hope to have preliminary data from the Committee on Ministry survey to direct our goal-setting for the coming year. The Committee on Ministry is in the process of gathering feedback about all our

ministries at the UFWC. I encourage you to fill out the survey. As our covenant statement reminds us, "We serve with compassion and commitment and pledge our time, talents and treasure to the common good of the congregation." Please show your commitment and take the time to complete the survey so that your voice can be heard.

A strong Board needs the input from all members of the congregation. The Board is committed to communicating what we are doing. Please take time to be informed and also to let us know your views. Our work depends on your voice.

– Committed to working with you to achieve our mission,
Diane

YOUTH GROUP

Though we don't have regular meetings over the summer, our youth group is still diving in at the district level. In early July, we piled into a big white van and took eleven youths and three adult advisors to the JPDYSC CON at the Paint Branch congregation in Adelphi, Maryland. UFWC will host the District Youth Steering Committee's monthly meeting in August, and we're planning a local Brandywine Valley cluster event for the early fall, too. Stay tuned. Questions? E-mail: youth-group.

START THINKING ABOUT THE FALL PICNIC

Celebrate our return from summer adventures at our annual fall picnic on Sunday afternoon, September 27, at Hoopes Park in West Chester. Details in the September *Fellowtarian*.

SUMMERTIME R.E. FAMILY FUN EVENT GET TOGETHER WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Wednesday, August 19
7 p.m.

Ice Cream at
Maggie Moo's
Main Street at Exton



What's better than ice cream in the summer? Come join your Fellowship friends for a refreshing "dip!" This event was planned with RE families in mind, but is open to anyone in the Fellowship. Contact Pam Baxter at email: DRE.

REMARKS – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

At a service on stewardship last year, Rev. Deborah showed an unusual item to the children. It was three banks – in the form of a bank building, a store and a church – put together as one. Deborah’s message was about the importance of balancing what we do with our money among saving, spending and giving. Following are some thoughts on money and what we choose to do with it – and how we can help our

children develop the habit of giving.

Some years ago, I saw a bit of a Dr. Phil or similar show featuring a young woman who found herself literally out on the

street after thinking she had landed the perfect gig – girlfriend to a mega-millionaire. I don’t remember all the details of her tragic, short-sighted adventure; only her saying (quoting roughly), “It’s been really hard. Just a short while ago, I was spending \$4,000 to \$6,000 a month on flower arrangements for all the rooms in my boyfriend’s house without even thinking about it.”

When that story popped into my mind recently, I found myself thinking a little more compassionately about the woman. Probably no one ever taught her about the real value of money and what you can do with it. I wondered how many people spend money thoughtlessly, as she did, simply because they can.

Last week in the *Daily Local News*, I read congratulations to a

Chester County resident who figures he’s spent about \$50,000 on Wawa coffee over the past 40 years. I didn’t understand why “roses” were going to this person. While aware that he did help the local economy, I wondered what else he might have done with the money.

Of course I have no way of knowing if this man contributed to charitable organizations as well as buying a daily coffee. I use it

We have a responsibility in our faith community to help our children learn about money: the responsibility that comes with having it, how to use it wisely, and the good it can do in the world.

as an example of how non-necessary purchases can add up over the years – money that might have been better spent elsewhere, but which slips through our

hands virtually unnoticed.

Last year, the 6th and 7th grade class raised money for Pennies for Peace. It was different from the one-day fundraisers we have typically done. It was good to see the children get into the habit of bringing in their coins and dropping them into the collection jar each week. I’d like to continue that, so that we take a collection every Sunday morning during our Children’s Worship time, giving the children a choice of three options of where their money will go – for instance, Pennies for Peace, the Cares Food Network, and our Fellowship.

Like many traits, our attitudes toward money have their roots in childhood. My story is that my father was perennially out of work. We got by on my mom’s small salary and my dad’s substitute

teaching. Four children got through college on summer jobs, campus jobs, and scholarships. Volunteering (working for free) was forbidden.

We lived in super-thrift mode, never contributing to charity except the little bit my mom sneaked into the collection plate at church on Sundays. I did not learn the habit of giving as a child. I discovered it by marrying someone who had. I gradually learned that it feels good to give and to have the choice to give to causes about which I feel passionate.

Putting all these things together, I can see that we have a responsibility in our faith community to help our children learn about money: the responsibility that comes with having it, how to use it wisely, and the good it can do in the world. I also believe – as we stressed during Pennies for Peace – that the money donated should be the children’s own, whether from allowance, gifts or earnings, even if it is only a penny or two. This develops not just the habit of giving, but giving from what is truly ours to give.

– Pam Baxter

Director of Religious Education

REMINDER



Remember to buy grocery certificates on Sunday mornings after the service.

STONES IN THE SAME WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

Each event, each action is another stone in the wall of social justice

Got an idea for a social justice project? Want to bring it to UFWC? Contact the Social Justice Committee (email: social-justice) to talk about it. The committee will support ideas, but ultimately they must have a champion (leader/chair), at least several other people committed to the idea, and must be submitted in writing for the committee to review. We do not want to limit ideas, but they need to be thought out. We'll even help you think about what you want to accomplish.

Sound too bureaucratic for Unitarian Universalists? Not really. Our intent is that all future projects be grounded in sound planning and organization. Given the unlimited need out there and our limited energies and ability to address social injustice, we need to be focused to make best use of our time.

GLEANING

Again this summer we will be sharing the fruits of our gardens with those who are hungry. Whether it be a single tomato, bean, or beet, please bring it on Sunday and put it in the baskets in the lobby. Because it will be a couple of days until delivery is made, bring under-ripe, rather than over-ripe, vegetables.

Note also that we will be working on Monday morning, August 31, from 9-11 a.m. at the Chesco Food Cupboard gardens. Please contact Tom Townsend for info. They also need help on Monday and Thursday mornings in September and early October. Anyone interested? For more information or to volunteer, contact Tom Townsend at email: uusc.

SHARE-THE-PLATE GENEROSITY

The share-the-plate collection of \$245 for the West Chester Food Cupboard in June continues our commitment to help provide food to those in need. The share-the-plate recipient in August is once again the Friends Association. This organization provides much needed short-term housing for mothers and their children who would otherwise be homeless. You can help support our neighbors by giving generously August 16 when the next share-the-plate collection is taken.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING

The first bill to address global warming has passed the House. On June 26, the U. S. House of Representatives passed, by a vote of 219-212, the American Clean Energy and Security Act, bill HR 2454, a.k.a. the Waxman-Markey bill.

The bill would create a comprehensive cap-and-trade program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create new programs to encourage development of renewable energy. Various environmental organizations are urging the public to call for improvements to the bill. It is likely that this legislation will be reviewed by Senate committee in September and will reach the Senate floor in December. For more information, contact Diane Maguire.



Sustainable Living Subcommittee Tip of the Month: Decrease your electricity use, and help reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. During cooler months, electricity is generally produced by “base load” generators. In southeastern Pennsylvania, most of the electricity produced is generated by nuclear power plants and some coal-fired plants. On a hot summer afternoon, when folks are running their air conditioners and electric consumption is high, the power company adds electricity to the grid by running additional generators, typically gas-, oil-, or diesel-fired, because they are easy to ramp up and down in response to demand.

Each of these types of electricity generation produces some kind of pollution. Radioactive waste, carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, mercury, and particulate matter are some common pollutants. If you are running your air conditioner, you can compensate for this increase in electricity use by reducing your use in other ways. You can turn off all unnecessary lights. If you run the dishwasher, open it after the wash/rinse cycles are done and air-dry the dishes. If you wash clothes, hang them to dry or use a lower heat setting.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE: THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR A FAIR MINIMUM WAGE

The current federal minimum wage for a full-time worker amounts to just \$13,624 per year. Join UUSC (uusc.org) and its partners in the call for living wages by promoting the raising of the federal minimum wage to \$10 in 2010, the first step toward bringing the minimum wage closer to a living wage. Remember: "10 in 2010"!

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION PROJECT

Remember, we will be collecting canned and boxed foods the first Sunday of every month. The next food collection will be August 2. The food will be donated to the West Chester Food Cupboard, which will distribute it to food cupboards throughout the county. Food items should be put into the baskets in the lobby. Hunger doesn't stop in the summer, so please bring in your food items.

DELIBERATE LIVING

We will not meet during the summer and will skip September due to Labor Day weekend. These discussions will start again on October 4, the first Sunday of the month, as before. Contact Heidi Buss at email: deliberate-living.

POOL PARTY AND MUSIC JAM SUNDAY, AUGUST 23 1-5 P.M. 629 NORWAY RD., CHADDS FORD

Chic Bach and the Fun and Fellowship Committee invite the UFWC community to an outdoor pool party at Chic's home in Chadds Ford on August 23 in the afternoon. You can come directly after services if you wish. There will be swimming, volleyball, an outdoor music jam, and gas grills.

Bring your bathing suit, towel, lawn chair, musical instrument, a beverage, something to grill (if you wish), and some food to share. Paper products, ice, and refrigeration will be provided. There are a few shade trees, and there is a tent for the musicians. All ages are welcome, but there will be no life guard. The rain date is the following Sunday, August 30. Directions will be available in a link from the *Connections*. For more information contact Chic or Nancy Artus at email: pool-party.

Hope to see you there.



HEALTHCARE REFORM

The clock is ticking, and the "big money" is starting to pour into Washington. And you can be sure that it's against real reform. The best way to keep up-to-date is to go to this website: <http://healthcareforamericanow.org/>.

The most important thing you can do is to call your senators and representative. This is much more effective than a letter, fax, or email. Tell them that you want a public healthcare insurance option that starts on day one, has no "co-ops" or "triggers", and is accountable to the government. Also, it must have the clout to establish rates with providers and big drug companies. There's not a second to lose – by the end of summer it will all be over, so please call today.

EVENING DISCUSSION GROUP

These discussion groups are open to all members and friends. Come as you can. Regular attendance is not necessary. This month we revert back to the second and fourth Thursdays, August 13 and August 27. These discussions provide opportunities to address meaningful subjects together in a reflective atmosphere while developing a deeper understanding of ourselves and others.

Leadership varies, depending on preferences and preparation. Topics may be chosen by the leader or by the group or may even emerge from the previous discussion. Possible topics could be *Connections*, *The Soul's Purpose*, or *Reincarnation*. Contact Heidi Buss or Terry Rothermel at email: evening-discussion.

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

All email addresses @ufwc.org unless otherwise noted.

Aug 2	Sun	First Sunday Food Collection. Lobby. See p. 5.
Aug 8-9	Sat-Sun	JPD Youth Steering Committee. 6 pm Saturday through 8 am Sunday. See p. 2.
Aug 9	Sun	Safe Harbor Dinner. Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. To help, contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: safe-harbor
Aug 12	Wed	Religious Education Committee. 7 p.m. Youth Group room. Contact Sue Quake, email: RE
Aug 13	Thu	Social Justice Committee. 7:15-9 p.m. Office. Contact Ed Cohle, email: social-justice. Summer Evening Discussion. 7:30-9 p.m. OWL room. See p. 5.
Aug 14	Fri	Lunch Group. 11:30 a.m. Panera Bread. See below.
Aug 16	Sun	Share-the-Plate Sunday. Benefits Friends Association. See p. 4.
Aug 19	Wed	Summertime R.E. Family Event. 7 p.m. Ice cream social. See p. 2.
Aug 21-22	Fri-Sat	Leadership Retreat. Offsite. Contact Mark Steel, email: program.
Aug 23	Sun	Pool Party and Music Jam. 1-5 pm at Chic Bach's home. See p. 5.
Aug 27	Thu	Summer Evening Discussion. 7:30-9 p.m. OWL room. See p. 5.
Aug 29	Sat	Folk Singing. 8 p.m. at the home of Steve and Linda Sander. See below.
Aug 31	Mon	Gleaning. 9-11 a.m. at the Chesco Food Cupboard gardens. Contact Tom Townsend, email: uusc. See p. 4.

FOLK SINGING

The next folk singing get-together is August 29 at 8 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. No singing talent is necessary. Capable musicians may bring instruments.

Bring a munchie, if you wish. Maps are available in the lobby. Contact Steve at email: folk-singing.



GAME NIGHT

There is no Game Night at the Fellowship in August. The next Game Night at the Fellowship will be Friday, September 4. Contact Mary Yeager at email: game-night.

LUNCH GROUP

Lunch Group will meet Friday, August 14, at 11:30 a.m. at Panera Bread, 1103 West Chester Pike, near Shop Rite. Newcomers are welcome. To be added to the e-mail reminder list, contact Linda Sander at email: lunch-group. The reminders are an easy way to RSVP, so we can save enough seats for everyone. If you don't have e-mail or you change your mind at the last minute, come anyway. Everyone is welcome.