

UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP OF WEST CHESTER
501 S HIGH ST
WEST CHESTER PA 19382

 **the**
FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester

Telephone: 610-692-5966 Web: www.ufwc.org

Our Mission: *As a diverse liberal faith congregation, we make a difference in our lives, our children's lives, and the wider community by creating an environment for spiritual growth and fulfillment, for building meaningful connections, and for actively advancing peace and justice in the world.*

SUNDAY SERVICES

February 2010

February 7

**SPIRITUALITY FROM A YOGIC PERSPECTIVE:
HOW FAITH CAN BE A TOTAL LIFESTYLE**

Bob Butera, PhD

Yoga as an art of living encompasses spirituality at each turn without dogma. While the media presents Yoga as a set of poses for fitness, Yoga is much broader. The philosophy or theory of Yoga encompasses psychology, work, love, health and learning. The message will offer a practical step as a means of inspiring faith. See p. 4 for details.

February 14

**"GUNG HAY FAT CHOY!"
(Wishing you good fortune and wealth!)**

**Rev. Deborah Mero
and Pam Baxter**

Intergenerational service. On this day, millions of Chinese people around the world will be celebrating the New Year. We will take part in some of the traditions of this ancient festival and explore the concepts of good luck and new beginnings. We invite you to wear something red — the color of joy and happiness. Coincidentally, red is the perfect color to celebrate Valentine's Day and our Feast of Decadent Chocolate. Good fortune and chocolate? This morning has happiness written all over it.

Today is also our annual Feast of Decadent Chocolate. See p. 9 for more information.

February 21

ODAT -- Otherwise Known as, "One Day at a Time"

Rev. Deborah Mero

Another bumper sticker with wisdom way beyond its words. It's about time. So much of life is about time.

February 28 - 11 a.m. only

DUETS THE THIRD, MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Rev. Deborah Mero

Singer/songwriter David Roth will join Deborah, his sister, to help us kick off our annual canvas. You won't want to miss this service. **There will be one service at 11 a.m. preceded by an informational event at 10 a.m. hosted by the Stewardship Team.** See p. 6 for more information.

Services and Babysitting at 9 AM and 11 AM. Religious Education at 9 AM only.

THE SONG OF DEBORAH

Every morning for the past week as I have enjoyed the luxury of a hot shower, all I could think of was the earthquake survivors in Haiti who are without water to drink, let alone water for a shower. The small things we take for granted every day can mean the difference between life and death for so many.

It used to be that we would learn about disasters after the fact. We would read about them in the newspapers.

We might see some footage on the six o'clock news. It would be horrible, but there would remain a distance, a limit to the information that would come to us within a given day. With the advent of the 24-hour news cycle on cable TV and the internet, YouTube, Twitter, and the plethora of media, we can almost be in the midst of events as they take place. It can be overwhelming and gut-wrenching. We can choose to turn it off, but that does not lessen our awareness and sorrow, nor does it lessen our desire to do something.

With the advent of so many ways of getting information we are also discovering how the multitude of media can be used to provide help and connection. Facebook,

Twitter, and blogs have been used to find survivors, locate medical supplies, keep the electricity going to keep the internet going in Haiti, connect family members, and collect millions and millions of dollars to help provide needed aid. Everywhere we look people are finding new ways to actually do something. We can now dial a number on our mobile phones and money will automatically go to the Red Cross. Benefit concerts,

sales, activities are cropping up faster than we can keep track of them. The outpouring of aid from around the globe is nothing short of astounding.

That generosity was echoed on Sunday Jan. 17 when we took an extra collection for the UUService Commit-

tee for its efforts in Haiti. I know that many of you had already given to the UUSC and I assume many other organizations before Sunday, and yet we collected over \$2,000. This was yet another show of the generosity of so many in this community. There will be more ways to help as time goes on, and I know we will want to do whatever we can.

When natural (and unnatural) disasters happen, people often ask the question, "Where was God? How could God allow such

a thing to happen?" The universal question is "Why?" The Bible's attempt to answer that question is found in the book of Job, the book that has had more commentary and literary adaptations than probably any other biblical tale. It has been many years since I offered "Explorations in Job, When Bad Things Happen," a course on the literature of Job. The last time was after 9/11. It seems like now is the time to delve into those questions again. The conversation will begin on Jan. 31 with a sermon on Job. From there we will spend five sessions reading and talking about many interpretations of the story.

This is not easy material. It isn't meant to be. Life isn't easy material. We come together in our religious community to have a place to talk about such things. It is our attempt to find answers that make sense to us and help us live our days fully as well as help us find ways to give back, to build the society we would like to see.

I am so grateful to have the opportunities to bring people together for deep conversations. The women's retreat was a gift for all who were there. What began there will carry itself into the wider community in many ways. Explorations in Job brings another opportunity for connection. And for the men who may be feeling left out, let's talk about how we can bring you together to enhance your own spiritual growth. I'd like to help.

Every day brings new challenges to us personally and to the community and wider world in which we live. What a gift to have a faith community in which we can explore, serve, and grow together.

– Yours in faith and gratitude,
Deborah

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The Fellowtarian is the monthly newsletter of the
Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

The church year has reached its mid-point and brings a good time for reflection. At the Board level, we are taking time to contemplate how and what we are doing. Our work deals with making sure that we are achieving our mission. We ask ourselves if the congregation is following our mission. Are we “on-course” to do what we said we wanted to do?

As a diverse liberal faith congregation, we make a difference in our lives, our children’s lives, and in the wider community by creating an environment for spiritual growth and fulfillment, for building meaningful connections, and for actively advancing peace and justice in the world.

This year, as you know, we are still at the stage of asking our congregants, “What does this really mean?” We have provided three workshops in order to delve deeper into what this should look like for UFWC. I understand the workshop dealing with spirituality on December 6 was well attended, and most people felt engaged and energized. I was broken-hearted that I missed it. The second gathering will be on Saturday, January 30, 9:30-2:00. During this time we will discuss how we would like to work on the ends statements that deal with advancing peace and justice in the world:

- Our congregation actively works to eliminate oppression and create a peaceful, just and sustainable world.
 - We demonstrate our commitment to anti-racism in the world, and in our local community.
- A lunch will be provided. There will be a snow date of Feb-

ruary 13 if needed. I encourage you to attend so that we can delve deeper and hear what direction our mission should take.

On a personal level, I had the opportunity to attend the woman’s retreat during the weekend of January 8-10. The retreat brought me time to reflect on my spirituality and also to get to know some wonderful women. Eighteen people participated, and Deborah planned an agenda that was invigorating, thought-provoking, and fun. I am thankful to have had this opportunity.

As a congregation, I think that now is a golden opportunity to see how we are doing. Recently, I received an article from the Joseph Priestly District. The writing by Deanne Starr talked about healthy congregations. I thought that I would share with you some ideas so that you can take some time to reflect on the following question: “Are you promoting the health of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester?”

1. Always be kind to one another, even if you think meanness is justified.
2. Always attribute the best possible motives to one another,

even when you do not understand one another’s words and actions.

3. Promise to one another only what you really intend and are capable of delivering.
4. Laugh and cry together, sharing both your joys and heartaches.
5. Be very quick to praise one another, and very slow to criticize.
6. Defend one another, but never yourselves.
7. Accept one another’s gifts with gratitude; accept one another’s deficiencies with grace.
8. Do not tell one another how to feel. Remember that feelings are facts and treat them accordingly.
9. Greet each day with expectations and each hour of rest with thanksgiving.
10. Let your eyes light up when you come into one another’s presence.

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

ADULT LEARNING AND ENRICHMENT

Deborah will offer a five-session course exploring when bad things happen to good people through the story of Job. We will discuss tragedy, reward and punishment, personal understandings, and belief or disbelief in God using various books, essays and plays by Harold Kushner, Archibald MacLeish, Elie Wiesel, and Robert Frost, as well as the biblical account of Job. More information will be forthcoming in *Connections*.

Wednesdays, from 7 to 9 p.m., on February 10 and 24, March 10 and 24, and April 7. All are welcome.

REmarks – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

The New Year is only a couple weeks old, and already we're planning for another New Year's celebration – this time, Chinese New Year, the theme of our upcoming Intergenerational Services on February 14.

Why celebrate Chinese New Year? One answer is simply that it's fun to celebrate – to gather together to share stories, sing, dance and eat. At a deeper level, we can learn and grow by exploring traditions of people of other faiths and cultures; by "trying on" new thoughts and practices. Unitarian Universalism draws its principles and purposes from many sources. Exploring the celebrations of the people who practice other faiths can help us understand what their beliefs are, and may help us expand and deepen our own.

Another answer is that celebrating a new year that begins in February opens the possibility of celebrating a new beginning for ourselves at any time. We can explore what it means to make a new start on something, and how to hold onto that fresh, inspired energy so that it will last us through the year. Perhaps we don't have to wait for the arrival of the next official New Year's Day to start over. Maybe we can create change for ourselves at any time.

And then there's the concept of "good luck" and "good fortune," which is a big part of the Chinese New Year observance. What is good luck? Where does it come from? Do we have any influence on what kind of luck we have?

Deborah and I hope we have the good fortune of seeing you at one of the services on February 14 so we can explore

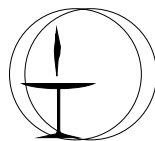
these things together. And we hope that your taking part will inspire new thoughts and good fortune throughout the year.

-- Pam Baxter
Director of Religious Education

HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

This past Sunday, we began a collection for Haiti earthquake relief. Since we already have "Pennies for Peace," we are calling this effort "Quarters for Water," since water is one of the most-needed commodities in Haiti at present.

On our first day of collection, the children contributed over \$37.00. The need in Haiti is not short-term, so we will continue Quarters for Water for the foreseeable future. Children may choose which effort to donate to.



WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Please welcome the following new members who signed the book in January:

- Amanda Lipnack of Malvern
- Erica and William Tucker of West Chester
- Diane Minka of West Chester
- Rebecca and Phil Kerper of West Chester
- And our newest youth member Alex Vogt of West Chester

YOGA EXPERT TO SPEAK AT UFWC

At our Sunday service on February 7, we will hear from Bob Butera, M.Div., Ph.D., who trains Yoga teachers at The YogaLife Institute in Devon and publishes the magazine, *Yoga Living*.

Yoga as an art of living encompasses spirituality at each turn without dogma. While the media presents Yoga as a set of poses for fitness, Yoga poses are a subtopic of one of the five major branches of Yoga. The philosophy or theory of Yoga includes each facet of life including Psychology (Raja or Meditation), Selfless Service (Karma or work), Devotion (Bhakti or love), Esoteric (Tantra or Health/Energy) and Intellect (Jnana or Highest Knowledge). The service will offer a practical step as a means of inspiring faith.

His recent book, *The Pure Heart of Yoga: 10 Essential Steps to Transformation*, has done well since its September, 2009 release. Bob's degree in Spirituality is from the Earlham School of Religion (1993, Quaker) and his PhD in Yoga is from the California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco (1998).

CLOSURE NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

Winter is upon us. This is a reminder to our members and friends about our closure notification procedure. The process is in place to help everyone be informed if we need to cancel Sunday Services or any other big event due to either inclement weather, power loss or something unforeseen.

- An announcement will be placed on the Fellowship voice mail recording (610-692-5966) if services are cancelled.
- The following radio and TV stations will be notified about Sunday services cancellation due to inclement weather:
Radio: KYW 1060 AM
TV: CBS3, NBC10, FOX 29
- You may be directly contacted by phone, or you may get an e-mail about cancellation of Sunday services.
- If possible, a notice on the first page of our web-site will show a cancellation of services.

We hope, by using all types of media, everyone will be informed and most of all safe. If in doubt, call or check the web site. Also, we urge everyone to always keep one "old fashioned" telephone, one that is not wireless or does not require electricity to work, plugged into a telephone outlet somewhere in your house. Should there be a power outage, you may want to be able to make or receive phone calls.



YOUTH GROUP

On January 19, along with several hundred others, the UFWC youth group turned a day off into a day ON working in the West Chester area Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. We had an amazing turnout of eleven youth. Youth group teens and adults worked on two projects: painting and scraping at the Bethel AME Church and organizing materials at the Care Center for Christ. Look for photos on the UFWC website. The following weekend, we piled in our big white van (with friends from the youth group at Main Line) and drove to the JPD YSC WinterCON in Manassas, Virginia, which focused on social justice.

What's happening this month? On Sunday, February 14, we'll gather at the Werners' home to prepare food and serve dinner at Safe Harbor. Yes, this is Valentine's Day – we're gathering in the late afternoon to share a little culinary love and expect to finish around 6 p.m. Watch your e-mails for details. We'll also start to plan our Youth Sunday service (March 28) and prepare our application for the JPD YES award. Let's step up and earn a seventh one!

JOIN US downstairs on Sunday mornings at 10:45 a.m. Newcomers are **always** welcome. Questions? E-mail: youth-group.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees conducted its regular monthly meeting on January 12, 2010. Discussion focused on revisiting the roadmap the Board set for this year at the August retreat, deferring some actions and making plans to complete the unfinished tasks. Some of the policies developed by the Board last year in our process of transitioning to Policy Governance will be further refined this year.

The Ends Team is planning for the January 30 workshop which will focus new ways to live our Mission in the area of social justice. (See *From the President*, p. 3.) The Strategic Plan Team has begun its work to develop our next Long Range Plan as the previous 5-year planning period comes to an end.

Other topics of discussion for this month included ways to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of individuals and groups within the congregation, what membership in the congregation means and the expectations we set at the time the membership book is signed.

Members and friends of the Fellowship are encouraged to share comments and concerns with Board members, as well as to attend Board meetings if interested. The Board meets on the second Tuesday of the month, in the office. Meeting minutes are posted to the members section of the UFWC website after being approved by the Board.



FINANCIALLY YOURS

The Finance and Stewardship Committees are deep into planning for the next Stewardship campaign and canvass.

Taking our cue from our Vision Statement this year's theme is "Making a Difference." Also with the help of an early peek at the congregational survey, we know that 47% of respondents think small gatherings are the preferred method for soliciting pledges while 36% think a Commitment Sunday is the best approach. An additional 8% like one-on-one contact.

So as not to disappoint anyone, we will use all three methods starting with a musical single service on Sunday, February 28, conducted by Rev. Mero and her brother, singer/songwriter David Roth. The service will be preceded by an informational meeting during which the Stewardship Committee will explain our financial needs, review the process for soliciting pledges from members and friends, and answer questions. Pledge cards will be available at that time, and you will have an opportunity to complete them and turn them in during and after the service. This will be an exciting service that you will not want to miss, but for those of you who cannot attend, we will again hold neighborhood gatherings and conduct individual meetings to provide information and solicit pledges. Expect more information shortly on this service and the campaign.

Another finding of the congregational survey is that many of you think that we do not provide sufficient information about Fellowship financial matters. In last month's *Fellowtarian* it was noted that financial reports are posted in the members section of the web site, but we want to do more to keep you updated on our income and expenses throughout the year. Starting soon look for financial reports on the "Our Congregation" bulletin board in the coffee corner. We'll keep the postings up-to-date, so that you will never be in doubt about our financial health.

Committee Chairs – please help! The Finance Committee needs your draft 2010-11 budgets. Please send by e-mail to my attention by the end of January, if possible.

Finally thanks to everyone who got their pledges up-to-date last month. This was good for your tax planning and good for the Fellowship. We are now slightly ahead of last year's income projections and slightly under budget for expenses.

– Mike Miller
Executive Treasurer

FELLOWTARIAN CARBON FOOTPRINT

This issue of the *Fellowtarian* is the first edition to be primarily sent by email to our members, friends and visitors. The paper savings is large. In the past we averaged 1,175 sheets of paper per month. Yearly consumption was 14,000 sheets of paper or 28 reams. We have now reduced our paper use to 250 sheets of paper per month, which equals a yearly use of 3,000 sheets or 6 reams of paper. That is a 78% reduction. Thank you, to all the people who converted from paper to e-mail. Our carbon footprint is getting smaller.

NEW WOMEN'S CIRCLE FORMING

There is a new Women's Circle forming at UFWC. Its seed was planted at the wonderful women's retreat earlier this month where a small group was formed to nurture the idea. Now all that is needed for its growth is a group of interested UFWC women and their friends to gather. The first one will be held in the Youth Group Room on Monday, February 8, from 7-9 p.m.

The vision of this group is to offer the women of our congregation an opportunity to come together, be rejuvenated, find connections with each other, grow in our spiritual journeys, share the joy, and support each other's concerns. We'll celebrate each other and anything else that comes to mind. This Women's Circle is designed to be flexible with just enough structure to keep things consistent. There are no leaders, so we will pick volunteer co-facilitators each meeting for the following month.

This first gathering will have the theme of "New Beginnings" – new beginnings of this Women's Circle, new beginnings of relationships with each other, the new year, and any other new beginning you may have in your life. We will also find consensus on which day to meet (either the second Monday or Friday of each month), explain the general structure and group guidelines, and decide upon the co-facilitators for March.

If you have any comments or questions about this "new beginning" at the UFWC, just ask Debby Kern, Ellen Schipul or Diane Minka (email address: womens-circle). More information will come in *Connections*.

STONES IN THE SAME WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

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

MLK DAY OF SERVICE A BIG SUCCESS

January 18th was the Martin Luther King Day of Service. Once again we had high participation from UFWC members and friends of all ages. About 40 people participated (the exact number is hard to pinpoint as not everyone preregistered). Our minister and two members of UFWC attended steering committee meetings at St. Paul's Baptist church. The day started with organizing the approximately 400 people who divided up into teams to work on the projects throughout the area. Painting, cleaning, singing at nursing homes, making silk scarves to be sold to raise money to be used in Africa, knitting caps for babies, making quilts and making cards for some of the soldiers overseas were just some of the many activities that we participated in.

As usual, a strong presence from our Youth Group and the youth groups from several other congregations was noted. Given the size of our congregation, the number of our youth combined with their energy was outstanding. It was also good to see our fellow UU friends from the WellSpring Congregation there, too.

A new project on food collection this year was developed from ideas by Rev. Deborah and Rick London. We collected and sorted over 1,700 lbs. of food in a three hour span of time. The West Chester Food Cupboard picked up the food at the conclusion of the food drive. The day concluded with a great lunch for all and a short program in the sanctuary of St. Paul's Baptist. Speakers at the conclusion included our State Senator Andy Dinniman, Rev. Deborah, and Ed Cohle.

What a great, energizing experience for everyone!

END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Are you aware that there is a play that is performed at thousands of V-Day benefit productions of the play that take place annually in February and March raising funds for local groups, shelters, crisis centers working to end violence against women?

Well, guess what? V-Day Lionville will present a reading of Eve Ensler's award winning play *The Vagina Monologues* to benefit The Crime Victims' Center of Chester County, Inc., a local organization that provides services to victims of all types of crime and violence.

The performance will take place right here at the UFWC at 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 7. Tickets may be reserved by phoning 484-604-0328. Tickets are \$10, and additional donations will be accepted at the door. A great night out supporting a worthwhile cause.



UUSC UPDATE

We can be proud that the only Human Rights organization that begins with "U.U." (the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) is asking us to help with our dollars as they began to move into Haiti hours after the disaster occurred. As usual, UUSC will work only through carefully selected local organizations, because those local organizations know where the real problems are. UUSC concentrates on the "hidden" people, those at the sidelines and bottom of society, the marginalized people who are not likely to receive aid from the mainstream charities. We can be proud of their work and the fact that 92 cents out of every dollar we contribute will go to direct relief (most of the rest will go to indirect costs, not into pockets of those in the U.S.).

Also, please turn in your Guest at Your Table box in the wheelbarrow at the back of the sanctuary (look for the big "Guest at Your Table" sign). It's OK to write a check (made out to UUSC) or to contribute online at www.UUSC.org. You can also join the UUSC by going to their website and clicking on the box on the right hand side of the web page. Be sure to indicate UFWC as your congregation so we can get credit toward our goal of 100% membership. And if you did not get a box, membership envelopes are in the wheelbarrow. Thank you.

SHARE-THE-PLATE GENEROSITY

Our Christmas Eve collection raised \$1,750 (\$1,000 for Safe Harbor's capital campaign and \$750 for the food cupboard). We raised \$2,091 from our special collection in January to benefit disaster relief work in Haiti through the efforts of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and the Unitarian Universalist Association. The share-the-plate recipient on February 21 is the Friends Association. This organization provides much needed short-term housing for mothers and their children who would otherwise be homeless. At this point, it is still amazing how much we continually give to worthwhile efforts to improve our community and world. It's just who we are.

EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

FEBRUARY 21 7-8:30 PM

The February book is *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, the autobiography of Ishmael Beah. Beah tells his story of loss and wandering, violence and death with a compassionate voice. It is a gripping story that everyone should take the time to read. It explains in a clear voice how so many teenagers have become internally displaced in their own homelands. It is, in the end, a story of redemption and hope. Our discussion facilitator will be Pat Shorten. Please feel free to contact us at email: diversity-book-group, or call Shelly Case or Ruth MacFadyen. All are welcome.



DELIBERATE LIVING

Our next meeting is on February 7, the first Sunday of the month as usual. We meet at 12:30 p.m. downstairs after the second service.

In living deliberately, we have asked ourselves questions: What are some of the pathways toward reaching our authentic core, and how do we live it out? These pathways have many dimensions.

Separation from family tradition is not easy, and dealing with family and friends through this process can be complicated. The step might even seem radical to some. But Kay Modi will show how history of Christianity itself can provide the basis for freedom to choose our own spiritual journey. Such individual paths are supported by themes of the earliest Christians and the twelve the disciples and their gospels. This understanding can be helpful in making transitions.

These discussions are significant opportunities for new friends and members to be integrated with our larger membership via a reflective and personable atmosphere. Come and join us to be a part of our typical dynamic flow of good energy. No preparation is needed. No commitment is required, though continuity is best. Any questions or comments contact Heidi Buss at email: deliberate-living.

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION PROJECT

Our monthly food collection is on Sunday, February 7. Look for collection baskets in the lobby. The suggested donation for February is personal care items such as soap, deodorant, shampoo, lotion, laundry detergent, dishwashing detergent, paper towels, etc. but other non-perishables are also welcome. Reminder: Please check expiration dates. Items past expiration cannot be distributed.

NEW MEMBER DINNER/BICARB BISTRO

JANUARY 31 AT 6 P.M.

Please plan to come to the annual New Member Potluck/Bicarb Bistro Sunday, January 31, at 6 p.m. There will be food (please bring a dish to share.), fun, lots of people, dessert judging AND live entertainment by Nigel, unplugged. All are welcome. Meet our newest members, make new friends, and reconnect with long-time friends. Contact Mira Tryon at email: membership.

For anyone not familiar with the Bicarb Bistro, in the past it was a "theme" potluck with everyone tasting a little of each dish, then voting on her/his favorite. This year, in combining the two events, we will have the usual potluck dinner, and if anyone wants to submit a dessert for judging, that will be a special treat for all, and prizes will be awarded for the most popular desserts. So, come and partake of a variety of dishes and some special desserts.

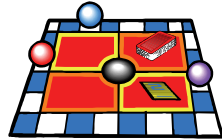
LUNCH GROUP

Lunch group will meet Friday, February 12, 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.

GAME NIGHT

Please join us Friday night, February 5, at 6:30 p.m. for Potluck and 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. Relax and enjoy the company. If you wish, learn a new game, or play an old favorite. Contact Mary Yeager if you have any questions at email: game-night



FIFTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY DANCE

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2-4 PM AT UFWC

Spend a memorable afternoon dancing (with friends of all ages) to simple American and English line, square and circle dances called by Janet Mills. All dances are taught; no partner or experience is necessary. Bring the entire family and bring your friends. More information will be given in the March *Fellowtarian*, or contact email: fun.

FEAST OF DECADENT CHOCOLATE

The Fun and Fellowship Committee will sponsor our Annual Feast of Decadent Chocolate, one of our favorite Fellowship events, on Sunday February 14. Chocolate lovers will remember this occasion fondly and non-chocolate lovers will remember their amusement at the attraction chocolate holds for some people.

The "Feast" is actually just a special potluck chocolate social hour after both of the services on that Sunday. Everyone is encouraged to bring his/her favorite chocolate treat (preferably homemade) to share. A list of ingredients is helpful to anyone with special dietary concerns/preferences. If you aren't ready to indulge so early in the day, we will have baggies so you can take home a sampling.

Come share your passion and recipes for chocolate at this popular social event, one of our culinary classics. If you have been thinking about introducing a friend to the Fellowship, this is the perfect event. If you have any questions, contact Mary Yeager at e-mail: fun.

NOTE FROM REV. MERO: Again this year for the Feast of the Decadent Chocolate you are urged to find and use fair trade chocolate in your offerings to one another. This addictive food that so many of us love has a cost to society and to those who do the backbreaking work of harvesting and processing the cacao pods. Please make the effort to find and use Fair Trade chocolate at least for this celebration. You will feel good having done so. (Check our Equal Exchange supply; we may have what you need)

FOLK SINGING

The next folk singing get-together is Saturday, February 27, at 8 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. Bring a munchie, if you wish. Contact Steve at email: folk-singing.

Coffee House

**An Evening of Music
Saturday, February 20**

7-10 pm

at the Fellowship

Featured Act

Diane Neri

Folk Singer

Song Writer

All members and friends are invited to be supporters and/or entertainers.

Sign-up for acts

begins at 6 p.m.

We will need set-up helpers around 5:30 p.m.,

donations of cakes, and someone to sell these items at the coffee house.

Contact Judy Perri at email:

coffee-house

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

All email addresses @ufwc.org unless otherwise noted.

- Jan 30 Sat** **Fulfilling the Mission: Social Justice.** 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. See. p. 3.
- Jan 31 Sun** **New Member Potluck & Bicarb Bistro.** 6 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 8.
- Feb 2 Tue** **Sustainable Living Committee.** 7-8:30 p.m. Office. Contact Charlot Barker, email sustainable-living.
- Feb 3 Wed** **Religious Education Committee.** 7 p.m. Youth Group room. Contact Sue Quake, email: RE
- Feb 5 Fri** **Potluck & Game Night.** 6:30-9 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 9.
- Feb 7 Sun** **First Sunday Food Collection.** Lobby. See p. 8.
Deliberate Living. 12:30 p.m. Fireplace room. See p. 8.
The Vagina Monologues. Benefit performance. 8 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 7.
- Feb 8 Mon** **Beyond War Group.** 7-8:30 p.m. Fireplace room. Contact John Gribbin, email: beyond-war
Women's Circle. 7-9 p.m. Youth Group Room. See p. 6.
- Feb 9 Tue** **Board Meeting.** 7 p.m. Office. All are welcome. Contact Diane Cohle, email: president
- Feb 10 Wed** **Adult Learning and Enrichment: *Explorations In Job.*** 7-9 p.m. Youth Group Room. See p. 3.
- Feb 11 Thu** **Social Justice Committee.** 7:15-9 p.m. Office. Contact Ed Cohle, email: social-justice.
- Feb 12 Fri** **Exploring Our Spirituality Book Group.** 9:30 a.m. Offsite. Contact Susan Gast or Harriet Singer, email: spirituality-book-group
Lunch Group. 11:30 a.m. Panera Bread. See p. 9.
- Feb 14 Sun** **Feast of Decadent Chocolate.** See p.9.
Stewardship Committee. 12:30 p.m. Office. Contact Pam Sapko, email: stewardship
Safe Harbor Dinner. 6 p.m. Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. To help, contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: safe-harbor
- Feb 15 Mon** **Presidents' Day.** Office closed.
- Feb 20 Sat** **Coffee House.** Featuring Diane Neri. 7-10 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 9.
- Feb 21 Sun** **Share the Plate Sunday. *Friends Association.*** See p. 8.
Membership Committee. 12:30 p.m. Contact Mira Tyron or Barbara Long e-mail: membership
Exploring Diversity Book Group. 7-8:30 p.m. Office. See p. 8.
- Feb 23 Tue** **Fellowship Council.** 7-9 p.m. Office. Contact Mark Steel, email: program
- Feb 24 Wed** **Adult Learning and Enrichment: *Explorations In Job.*** 7-9 p.m. Youth Group Room. See p. 3.
- Feb 25 Thu** **Religious Services Committee.** 7:30-9 p.m. Office. Contact Curt Hoganson, email: religious-services
- Feb 27 Sat** **Folk Singing.** 8 p.m. at the home of Steve and Linda Sander. See p. 9.
- Feb 28 Sun** **Annual Stewardship Campaign Begins.** See p. 6.
Informational Meeting Hosted by the Stewardship Team. 10 a.m. See p. 6.
Commitment Sunday. Single Service at 11 a.m. See pp. 1 & 6.
Membership Committee. 12:15 pm, office. Contact Barbara Long or Mira Tryon, email: membership

Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

- Choir Practice** Generally the three Thursdays before the third Sunday (which is when they sing at services). No practice on the fourth Thursday. Contact Helen Meacham, email: choir
- Senior High OWL** Class meets Sundays, 6:30 p.m.
- Youth Group** Most Sundays, 10:45-noon. Youth Group room. Email: youth-group. See p. 5.