
East Suburban No. 10
Unitarian Universalist Church

May, 2004



Sunday Services - 10:30 AM
Religious Education - 10:30 AM

Telephone
(724) 327-5872

Now in our new home at
4326 Sardis Road, Murrysville!

Website
<http://www.esuuc.org>

ESUUC Sunday Services

Sunday, May 2, 10:30AM- “Would You Believe!”

Rev. Renee Waun

Not referring here to the big beliefs, such as whether there is a God or a Hereafter, but the more personal, everyday ones that directly affect our physical choices, like “I believe that this food will make me healthier”. **Dr. Waun** will explore the way our beliefs impact our decisions and choices. Can we merely look at someone and know something of what they believe? Are our beliefs perfectly evident even to ourselves?

Sunday May 9, 10:30AM - “If God Were Our Mother”

Maureen C. McHugh

In tribute to Mothers on Mother's Day, we will explore the Feminine Face of God and celebrate a Mother Deity. What does it mean to have a God Who Looks Like Her (a Mother Goddess)? What images and issues does God as Mother provoke for you?

Sunday, May 16, 10:30 AM - “Fast Food Nation”

Andy Manhardt - Facilitator

“Fast Food Nation” by Eric Schlosser charts the growth of the fast food industry since World War Two and the industry’s impact on our health, landscape, economy, politics and culture. Four panelists will discuss their views on the book to stimulate a discussion about the subject. The panelists will be Dan Begg, Andy Manhardt, Lew Ruffing and Mark Zingarelli.

Sunday May 23, 10:30 AM - “The Bible as a Tool in Supporting Discrimination”

Michael Mazza

My talk looks at the parallels between the uses of the Judeo-Christian Bible in the debates over the abolition of slavery in the 19th century and gay rights today. My essential thesis is this: in their rhetoric against gay rights, contemporary anti-gay Christian Right activists are employing hermeneutical strategies that are virtually identical to those employed by the pro-slavery, anti-abolitionist Christians of the 19th century. Similarly, contemporary pro-gay Christians have a way of approaching the Bible which mirrors the interpretive strategies of the Christian abolitionists.

Sunday May 30, 10:30 AM – “The Science of Drumming”

organized by Maureen McHugh

In this program we will explore the evidence for drumming as an empirically validated intervention for medical and mental health problems. In addition we will practice what we preach. Hopefully both experts and expertise will be presented.

Sunday, June 6, 10:30AM- “Stepping Stones”

Kathy Begg and Rev. Dr. Renee Waun

The **Coming of Age Youth** will star in this Sunday’s service as they have completed their year-long program of preparation. We will have a wonderful time of sharing as we welcome the youth into

this new phase of their lives. **Kathy Begg and Dr. Waun** will facilitate this momentous occasion, which will be followed by a special reception in the Community Room.

Sunday, June 13, 10:30AM- “In Every Bud There is a Flower”

Rev. Dr. Renee Waun

This will be **Pride Sunday** for East Suburban Church (celebrating the worth and dignity of every gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender person) as well as our annual Flower Communion ritual where each person is asked to **bring a stemmed flower** to place in a common vase for this poignant tradition begun during WWII. Come and hear the story of how all this fits together as we bring our regular Program Year to a close before beginning summer activities. **Dr. Waun** will officiate.

Religious Education News

Class Schedule and Teacher:

Nursery

May 2 Kate Zingarelli
May 9 Gayle Pamerleau
May 16 Gayle Pamerleau
May 23 Gayle Pamerleau
May 30

Lower Elementary

May 2 Children attend first part of service.
Planning for Father's Day
Intergenerational Service.
May 9 A Time to do Right - Shauvot
Marianne Jew
May 16 A Time for Wondering About
God - Always - Lew Ruffing
May 23 A Time When Each Person is
Special - Everybody's Birthday
Kathy Ruffing
May 30 A Time to Say Goodbye –
Closing Sunday School Class
Kathy Begg

Upper Elementary

- May 2** Children attend first part of service..
Planning for Father's Day
Intergenerational Service.
- May 9** No RE Class Planned.
Kids will assist with a special project.
- May 16** Creating the Newspaper - Part 1
Maria Luczkow
- May 23** Creating the Newspaper - Part 2
Maria Luczkow
- May 30** Culmination and Celebration
Dan Begg

Middle School

- May 2** Tentative visit to the Hindu Temple
- May 9** Candidates will attend the service
- May 16** Candidates will make stepping
stones to commemorate
the COA year
- May 23** Candidates will be away on
their trip to Boston
- May 30** Preparation for the Coming of Age
Ceremony next week-end

RE News and Events:

Chess Tournament:

The first annual ESUUC Intergenerational Chess Tournament is scheduled for Saturday May 15 from 1 to 4. If you are interested in participating, please sign up as soon as possible. We only have a few sign ups so far and would like to see more participation so that we can make this tournament a challenging one! Thank you to everyone who has offered to loan us a chess set for the occasion. We WILL take you up on it. Please bring them to church the week before so we have them on hand.

Renaissance Module

During the week-end of March 28, Dan and I attended the Administration Module of the Renaissance program - which is an educational program designed to help those of us involved in RE programs to improve our skills. It was also a great opportunity for us to meet and mingle with colleagues and exchange ideas. We came back with lots of new ideas that you will likely get to know first hand in the coming months!

It was a very rewarding experience and we hope that what we learned will help us to do our job as RE Directors more effectively.

Coming of Age

Service Project

By the time you read this our COA Candidates will have spent a day in Cleveland assisting our friends at Urban Hope UU Church. Urban Hope is a store front UU Church that serves an economically mixed community. They serve this community in many different ways, one of which is to provide plots where residents grow food for their table, many out of necessity. Weather permitting, we have helped in getting the garden ready for planting and with other projects as needed.

Church Visits

On Sunday May 2 the COA Candidates and their mentors will be attending service at a Hindu Temple. A huge thank you to Jane Longdon for arranging this for us. We couldn't have done it without you Jane! We are also working on arranging for the Candidates and their mentors to attend Pagan rites, possibly before the end of May. Details will be provided once they have been finalized.

Boston Here We Come!!

On Thursday, May 20, our Candidates and their Chaperones will leave on their trip to Boston! This promises to be a wonderful experience for all involved.

Many, many thanks to all of you for supporting all of our fund raising efforts and making this trip possible. It would not have been possible without the generous support of our congregation.

The Grand Finale

Our year long COA program will culminate in June. A private ceremony for Candidates, their mentors and parents will be held on Saturday June 5 at the church. A congregational ceremony will follow on June 6 and will be held during our regularly scheduled service. Please plan to attend the Sunday service if you can and help us to celebrate this rite of passage for 8 of our wonderful young people.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy and Dan Begg
RE Directors

Soulforce is Coming to Pittsburgh

SOULFORCE TRAINING AND ACTION MAY 5-7

As thousands of people come to Pittsburgh to attend the quadrennial General Conference of the United Methodist Church, Soulforce—a non-denominational nonviolent action group—will be there, as they always are at national church conferences, to stand firm for the rights of GLBT persons in the mainstream church and protest its exclusionary mandates. About 200 hundred Soulforcers will be present to demonstrate, believing that if anyone is oppressed, no one is truly free. At least three persons from our congregation and some from other Pittsburgh area UU churches will be participating with Soulforce on Wednesday, May 5 from 6-9 for a high-powered national training session at the Ramada near the Convention Center, in preparation for demonstrations on Thursday and Friday, May 6 and 7. If anyone is intrigued by this, see Dr. Waun or Nancy Fitzgerald. Pamphlets and literature is available in the foyer of the church. As UUs, we know a church that is inclusive. We can help foster this vision to churches that are still in need of this final emancipation.

Armor and Sturtevant Concert

On Saturday, May 22, Allegheny UU Church on Pittsburgh's North Side will feature Armor and Sturtevant in concert at 7:30pm. The wonderful UU duo from Erie interpret folk music from East Africa, Appalachia, and the British Isles and write songs inspired and influenced by various folk traditions, classical music, bluegrass, rock and roll, and jazz. Their collaborative work utilizes a plethora of instruments and has even been featured on NPR's Car Talk! Advanced tickets \$8.00 for this special evening. Call 412-322-4261 or see <http://www.alleghenyuu.org/> for details and directions.

RUSTED ROOTS Comes to ESUUC Again

Please join us for two hours of fun drumming with Jim Donovan. Drumming experience is not needed. This is for anyone who wants to have fun and learn drumming rhythms. He suggests kids should be 13 or older, but if you think they can sit for two hours and drum it is fine to sign them up.

Date: Sunday, May 16, 2004

Time: 12:30-2:30

Place: ESUUC sanctuary, Sardis Road, Murrysville

Cost: \$20.00 ahead of time

\$25.00 at the door

Drums can be borrowed from Jim for the workshop.

This is a fun workshop! Bring a friend, this is open to the community.

Any questions call or e mail Karen at 724-327-6321 or e mail at karenlgerard@aol.com

Checks can be made out to Jim Donovan and mailed to Karen Katilius

3464 Treeline Drive

Murrysville, Pa 15668

Ohio-Meadville Small Congregation Growth Workshop

ESUUC will be hosting an Ohio-Meadville Small Congregation Growth Workshop conference at our church building the weekend of Apr 30- May 2,. This is an exceptional event, that 4 of us had the opportunity to attend when it was held in Erie last year.

- 1) First, I invite anyone interested in seeing our church continue the growth and vitality we have experienced over the last few years to attend. You'll learn a lot about UU, plus help to refine your own mission and vision.
- 2) Second, we expect about 30 leaders of UU churches in the District to converge on our church, and will need food and possibly home hospitality. The Erie congregation treated us extremely well, and each of us made new, wonderful friends when we stayed at their houses. Please consider opening your heart and your house to visitors to our church!

In these early stages of planning, please contact Gerard Katilius, or 724-327-6321, if you can attend, and/or help with food and hospitality.

Drumming Circle

There will be NO drumming Circles during the month of May. We are looking forward to the drumming workshop with Jim Donovan on May 16th.

Opportunities for Personal Growth and Church Growth

How would you like an opportunity to support our church's growth, help develop our sense of community, and contribute to your own personal growth?

The Nominating Committee is currently seeking candidates for a number of ESUUC Board of Trustees positions. This year, three existing Board positions need to be filled. The positions that are to be filled are listed below, along with a summary of responsibilities. See the ESUUC By-Laws for a detailed discussion of responsibilities.

- President (currently held by Gerard Katilius). This position is typically stood for by the Vice-President, after he or she serves out his or her term. This Board position shall be President of the Church and Chairperson of the Board. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Church and

of the Board, but shall not vote at these meetings except to break a tie. The President is an ex-officio member of all committees & shall sign all agreements except those pertaining to the office of Treasurer.

- Vice-President (currently held by Maureen McHugh). Perform duties and exercise powers of the President in the President's absence and shall be coordinator among the Standing Committees.
- Program Chair (currently held by Kate Codd-Palmer & Jean Robl). Assemble and chair the Program Committee which will be responsible for setting Sunday programming goals and arranging for their implementation.

Elections are held at the ESUUC Annual Meeting in June. The elections are conducted by use of a secret ballot. If there is no objection, and only a single slate has been presented, the vote may be conducted by voice vote.

We are looking for good people to help us go forward into the future. We encourage you to stand for one of the available positions. (We may even nominate you ourselves!) You will find help and support from the current position-holder, the Board, and the standing committee members.

This is a good opportunity to help the church community and yourself grow. To put in a nomination for yourself or for another person, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members below:

Brien Palmer [email: brienp@adelphia.net phone: (724) 325-3903] or
Kathy Ruffing [email: ruffing@bellatlantic.net phone: (724) 327-1291].

Proposed Mission Statement

At the "Manifest our Mission" congregation workshop held Saturday March 13, Rod Thompson facilitated taking the individual mission statements created at the church retreat in January a step further. The session evolved into a potential update to our existing mission statement. The attendees worked hard under Rod's guidance, and came up with the following proposed mission statement:

ESUUC is a beacon and a haven for ethical open-minded individuals working together to:

Nurture each other

Celebrate diversity

Explore spiritual and philosophical questions and

Advance justice and freedom for all.

Since we are planning to vote to adopt this new mission statement at the annual dinner on June 12 we would like you to review it carefully and provide any suggestions for improvements to any of the board members.

Connections

Congratulations to Renee and her daughter Heidi on the birth of grandson Ian after a long birth process. Heidi subsequently suffered a bout with pneumonia.

Congratulations to Gerard Katilius who has been asked to serve as District Consultant.

Best wishes to Andy Manhardt as he begins his journey to becoming a Commissioned Lay Leader.

Welcome back to Shelley Lukon and to Linda Kuhl who have recently recontacted us after an absence. We missed you.

Condolences to Kathy Begg whose grandmother passed away, and to Merritt Bailey who experienced a series of losses.

Fond farewell to Sue Mallick who plans to tend a large garden in Conneaut.

Thanks to the hard work of the Aesthetics Committee for the design and conduct of the congregational survey.

Refreshments

"Coffee and Conversation" is an integral part of Sundays at ESUUC. This time honored ritual takes place after every Sunday service and consists of coffee and other beverages, as well as a snack. Snacks are provided by congregational members and friends on a rotating basis, and the list of names is posted in each monthly newsletter. The duties of the assigned refreshment person(s) include setting up the coffee and hot water for tea and cocoa, setting out plates, cups, napkins, plastic cutlery and the food, as well as cleaning up when everyone is finished.

May 2 George Ratliff

May 9 Kathy and Lew Ruffing

May 16 Cathy Serventi

May 23 April Soule

May 30 Kate and Mark Zingarelli.

If the Sunday assigned to you is inconvenient, please try to switch with another person on the list. Feel free to call me with questions. Maria Luczkow (724) 327-3352.

Congregational Committees

Current Committees

Committee - Chair

Aesthetics - Jane Longdon

Building and Facilities - Lew Ruffing

Caring and Concerns - Maria Luczkow

Committee on Ministry - Ginny Connolly Manhardt

Finance - Cathy Serventi

Landscaping - Open

Membership - Brien Palmer

PIIN - Nancy Fitzgerald

Religious Education Committee - Ken Noble

Signs and Symbols - Leona Dunnett

Social Enrichment - Open

Drumming - Karen Katilius

Sunday Programs/Celebrations - Kate Codd-Palmer, Jean Robl

Welcoming Congregation - Matt Mathis

Committee Calendar

May 2 Welcoming Congregation, 12:15 PM

May 4 Program Committee - 7:15 PM at the Church

May 6 Board of Trustees - 7:15 PM at the Church

May 15 Finance Committee Meeting – 9:00 AM at the Church

May 15 Aesthetics Committee meeting – 12:15 PM at the church

Treasurer's Update

Now that its that time of year when pledging is on everyone's mind I thought I might go over what the best way to pay your pledge to ensure that it doesn't go astray.

The easiest thing would probably be to put a check in the Sunday offering basket marked with what the payment is for: "April pledge", "capital", etc. That way when the collection is tallied your check is included in the count.

You can also mail your pledge to the church, if that is more convenient. Please don't mail your check to Cathy's house. Trust me, you would not believe how much paper there is there already.

As a last resort you can place your pledge in an envelope and leave it in Cathy's mailbox (marked Treasurer) in the room with the computer. If you would like to pay your pledge with cash but still want it to be credited toward your pledge commitment please make sure you put in an envelope marked with your name and amount. Otherwise it's not really possible to distinguish your payment from others' gifts.

Starting with the next pledge cycle in June I hope to have envelopes available for people to use. Checks should be made out to ESUUC.

Currently pledge statements are mailed out twice a year. Once in January that lists your contributions for the prior calendar year (for tax purposes) and once in May so that you can verify that your pledge commitment was met. However, you are free at anytime to ask for a printout if you want to know where you stand.

If you have any questions about this feel free to contact Cathy at treasurer@esuuc.org or at (724)387-1155.

I would like to thank everyone for there generosity and I'm looking forward to a strong canvass.

Aesthetics Committee

The Aesthetics Committee would like to thank the following people who donated money or materials towards the tapestry that is planned for the sanctuary. The artist will be starting work soon.

- Gwen Chegwidden in Honor of Sue Mallick
- Anonymous
- Kathy and Dan Begg in Honor of Mary Begg
- Maureen and Jerry Lilly
- Nancy Fitzgerald in Honor of Rev. Dr. Stephen H. Furrer
- Jean and Bob Robl in Honor of David Robert Robl
- Glen and Maria Klepac

- Marianne Jew, Rick Freda, Nicholas & Nola Freda in Honor of Richard N. and August Freda
- Maureen McHugh in Honor of Thomas McHugh
- Marylyn Devlin
- Jane Longdon
- The Marquads in Honor of Renee Waun

Communications

e-mail Updates

If you would like weekly email updates and reminders of church activities you can subscribe to the esuuc-announcements list. This a moderated list which means all posts have to be approved by someone so there shouldn't be any junk email coming through on the list.

There are three ways to get on the list:

1. There is a sign-up sheet in the church near the name tags.
2. You can go to - http://five.pairlist.net/mailman/listinfo/esuuc_news and sign yourself up.
3. You can send an email esuuc_news@esuuc.org

If you have an announcements or updates that you would like sent to the list send it to esuuc_news@esuuc.org. The list software does not handle attachments well so please put all of your information in the body of the message. Also please include contact information in the body of your message so any members with questions can contact you directly. Finally, if the announcements cannot wait until the regular email on Thursday or Friday please be sure that is clear from the message.

Newsletter Deadline

The newsletter deadline for the June Newsletter will be May 16. Please Email me with your articles at manhardt@adelphia.net or call me at (412) 373-3668 and leave a message with your news, stories, and other information.



mUUsings from the President
by Gerard Katilius

"Security and changelessness are fabricated by the ego dominated mind and do not exist in nature. To accept insecurity and commit oneself to the unknown creates a relaxing faith in the universe." is a tenet of Zen that I love. An important aspect of Joan Sabbatino's program this morning was letting go; deciding what things in your closet and attic you are ready to let go of -- letting go is also one of the most difficult parts of change. We're afraid to let go of what we know. Most of us can cite multiple experiences in our lives where either by circumstances or choice we let go of the old, went into something new, and discovered the new was much better. (Karen and I left behind the religion of our childhoods to come to UU and have been rejoicing ever since!)

Deepak Chopra in his SynchroDestiny program suggests the limits of our imagination are the most important determinant to our success. But in order to do what you dream, you have to let go of what you are doing today! As Joan Sabbatino said, it is a balancing act, but definitely one that merits our full attention. As we approach each new day, let us accept insecurity and commit ourselves to the unknown, and enjoy a relaxing faith in the universe.



Pastor's Column

by Rev. Renee Waun

Together In the Labor Room

At 4:00AM on Easter Day my daughter Heidi went into the Labor and Delivery room to begin a 34 hour process that ended in the birth of my precious grandson Ian. Waiting for so many hours after having already waited nine months added that much more excitement and anticipation to the celebration. The birth moment is always flooded with cheers and tears as the long awaited miracle unfolds, and dreams of the future are given a new context in the life of this wee little person.

Here at East Suburban UUC we stand together in somewhat of a Labor and Delivery room experience as we await the delivery of the results of our annual pledge canvas to the Finance Committee. Our dreams of the future include moving beyond the planned deficit of our first two years in this building, to a balanced budget with enough funds to pursue some of the wonderful ministry and activity ideas that have been bubbling up.

On Pledge Kickoff Sunday, we had a time of “dreaming” about what ESUUC could be. Many of you said you wanted us to have a community-wide reputation for social justice and action. Several said they would like us to double the size of our building by adding a big new sanctuary. A few gave practical suggestions such as lighting the parking lot, and eventually having a full time minister, a labyrinth and memorial garden.

We are in the birthing process for these dreams, all of which and more can be ours if we can move beyond merely balancing the budget. We can have whatever we want, if each of us is willing to be in the Labor and Delivery Room together—to pick up our piece of the vision and make it happen. Our goal for 2004 is \$40,000. Let’s make this the year that gives birth to all our fondest hopes and dreams!

See you in church!
Renee Waun

Calendar

(Sunday Services and Forums are listed on the first page)

Apr 30-May 2	Ohio-Meadville Small Congregation Growth Workshop conference - at the church
Tues. May 4	Program committee Meeting - 7:30 PM at the Church
Thurs. May 6	Board of Trustees Meeting – 7:15 PM at the Church
Sat. May 8	Work Day Party - At the Church
Sat. May 15	Chess Tournament – 6:00 PM – at the Church
Sun. May 16	Finance Committee Meeting – 9:00 AM at the church
Sun. May 16	Aesthetics Committee Meeting – 12:15 PM at the Church
Sun. May 16	Jim Donovan – 12: 30 PM – At the church
May 21, May 22	Coming of Age trip to Boston (tentative)
Sun. May 23	Town Hall Meeting on the Budget – 12:15 PM -At the Church
Thurs. June 3	Board of Trustees Meeting – 7:15 PM at the Church
Sat. June 5	Coming of Age Picnic – 5:30 PM at the Church
Sun. June 6	Welcoming Congregation Meeting – 12:15 PM - at the Church

