

East Suburban Unitarian Universalist Church



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

Telephone
(724) 327-5872

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

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ESUUC Sunday Services

Sunday, January 29, 10:30 am - "*W. A. Mozart*" - "Mozart is my favorite because I think he best expresses the emotions of all humankind. And ... listening to his music makes you smarter!" Pianist Brian Ogle will play some of his most famous pieces for piano and talk a little about the life of perhaps the most famous musician in history.

Sunday, February 5, 10:30 am - "*The Most Radical Thing You Can Do*" - **Rev. Waun and Mr. John Dale** from the UUA Partnering office, who will be coordinating our heritage tour this summer, will be with us to acquaint us with our new partner church in Kopec, which we will visit when we are there.

Sunday, February 12, 10:30 am - "*Letting Go*" - a musical program featuring **Judith Avers** who is a song/writer, performer, and an honest singer who relates to her audience, their experiences and the world around her. She has played coffee houses, theatres, festivals, pride events, Unitarian services, house concerts, garage concerts—anywhere open-minded music-loving folks gather. *See related article later in this newsletter about Judith Avers.*

Sunday, February 19, 10:30 am - "*Remembering August Wilson*" - Last Month, Book Club members read and discussed "Fences", one of August Wilson's plays. Today, **Book Club members** will be reading parts of the play at service. **Marylyn Devlin** will inform us of Wilson's unusual life story.

Sunday, February 26, 10:30 am - "*What's Equality Got to Do With It? On Relationship Quality and Gender Inequality*" - In February our thoughts turn to love and relationships. **Maureen C. McHugh**, PhD, a social psychologist and gender specialist, will present psychological and sociological research on the impact of gender and gender inequalities on the quality of our intimate relationships.

Sunday, March 5, 10:30 am - "*Our Endangered Values*" - This book by Nobel Peace Prize winner and best-selling author, Jimmy Carter is a collection of essays that point to his belief that America is in moral decline. **Dr. Waun** will explore the topic as it relates to the Seven UU principles and our UU understanding of morality.



Pastor's Column:

by Rev. Renee Waun

"Think Spring"

On a recent cold winter day when the snow was flurrying, I passed a sign by a garden shop that said "Think Spring". It made me smile, and then I remembered a florist telling me one time that lily seeds must be planted at Christmas in order for them to be in full bloom by Easter. So, here we are in February when we are allowed the first thoughts of spring as florists are planting their seeds and the groundhog makes his annual prognostication concerning the weather on the cross quarter day of winter (Feb. 2), so looking forward to what is stirring under the ground and in the roots is really quite logical at this time of year.

What's stirring for you? What delicious possibilities are being nurtured under the surface of your ordinary experience? What have you been dreaming about that can come into being by allowing the dream to come into its own?

Knowing that there is always something stirring, growing, incubating is such an exciting prospect. It is what draws creative energy through us and makes us feel really alive, even in winter. May it be so in each of our lives, and may it be so in our church community as we continue to dream and to grow and to realize possibilities together.



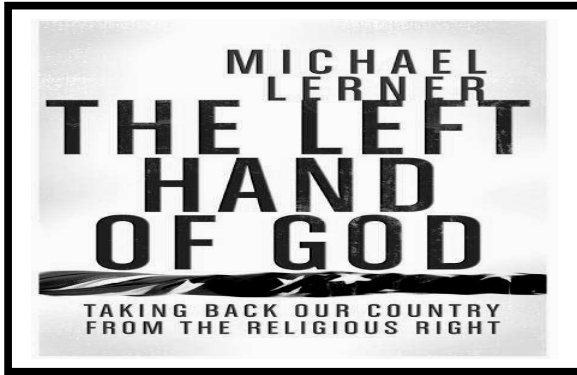
mUUsings from the President:

by Maureen McHugh

Finding Our Way

Thanks to all of you who attended the ESUUC Annual Retreat to help us find our way through 2006. Our review of what we accomplished as a Congregation in 2005 was impressive. In addition to our usual quality Programs and RE, we can be proud of: the initiation of the pastoral care team and the Committee on Ministry; ceremonies to mark the Turning of the Year, regular drumming sessions; building the labyrinth; installing the roof, the windows, and the doors; installing and maintaining the landscaping; completing the tapestry project and producing the tapestry cards; having our first Art Fair, and card sales fundraiser; watching movies together, and offering the Wal-Mart movie; offering the youth group, OWL, and the Gender Knot series, the music director, the choir, becoming a PA Cleanways group, participating in organic co-op farming; offering workshops on drumming, working with clay, and managing money; our contributions to Westmoreland Food Bank, and Katrina and Tsunami victims; building community through Stone soups and spaghetti dinners; the initiation of a partner church relationship; formal recognition of us as a Welcoming congregation; a successful canvass and a balanced budget. We hope to be as successful in 2006 as we expand our adult RE and workshop offerings; review the seven principles; continue to grow our generosity; strengthen our connections to other agencies and activism projects; travel to Romania; connect with other UUs in the district and nation; learn some hymns well; build community through more social activities and chalice circles. Please join us as we continue to celebrate, create community, and work for social justice. Indicate how you can contribute by signing up on the newsprint sheets in the sanctuary by the projects of your choice. Make suggestions of what topics you would like to have covered in RE, Sunday programs and workshops. Looking Forward to a Great 2006 — Maureen

Interfaith Book Study



Please join us for an interfaith book study as we prepare to welcome Rabbi Michael Lerner to Western Pennsylvania.

Beginning **Sunday, February 5 at 1:30 pm**,
East Suburban Unitarian Universalist Church
4326 Sardis Road, Murrysville

About the book and the author: The Religious Right has gained power by speaking to the real spiritual hunger of many Americans, but then channeled that hunger into political forms that support war and militarism, cuts to programs for the poor and tax breaks for the rich, and environmental irresponsibility. Michael Lerner presents a progressive Spiritual Covenant for America that powerfully critiques both the Right and the spiritual and religious hostility in some parts of liberal and progressive cultures, and calls for a New Bottom Line to offset the globalization of selfishness and materialism generated by corporate capital. Lerner is constructing a Network of Spiritual Progressives -- not only for liberals in the religious world, but also for many secular people who are "spiritual but not religious" -- and is organizing a national campaign to "Say No to the Religious Right" and to the war in Iraq.

Michael Lerner is the editor of Tikkun Magazine, rabbi of Beyt Tikkun, a synagogue in San Francisco, co-chair with Cornel West and Sister Joan Chittister of the Network of Spiritual Progressives (whose next national conference is in D.C. on May 17-20), and author of ten books including *Healing Israel/Palestine*, *Spirit Matters*, and the new book, *The Left Hand of God: Taking Back Our Country from the Religious Right* (HarperSanFrancisco, Feb. 2006).

Order your book now at one of your local bookstores.

For more information or directions please call or email Wanda Guthrie, 724.327.2767 or Theresa Mason 412.856.5005 (wanda.guthrie@gmail.com or tirzam2@cs.com).

Michael Lerner will be speaking in Pittsburgh on Monday evening, March 27, at the Jewish Community Center at Murray and Forbes Avenues, Squirrel Hill.

Directory Updates

Jerry Lilly will be collecting additions, changes and corrections to the 20002-2003 Directory. They will be compiled in a single sheet to keep with your directory until a new one is issued. Please send update information to Jerry by e-mail (gpnm@adelphia.net), phone (724-327-6453) or see him at church.

OWL Classes Have Started

The Our Whole Lives (OWL) human sexuality class for 4th and 5th graders started Monday January 23. This class helps children understand how they have control over their lives through their decisions today. It

uses the concepts of Respect, Relationship and Responsibility to connect their decisions to their own sense of right and wrong, their parents' values and the UU principles.

This is the second time that Matt Mathis and Susan Goodis have taught the class for this age group.

The OWL program includes material for 5 different age groups, from Kindergarten through adult. We already have people trained to teach 3 of them and hope to add another in the next year. All of the classes can be expected to run on 2 or 3 year cycles. Contact the RE directors, Kathy or Dan Begg (REdirector@esuuc.org) for information on likely future offerings.

Our 1st Service Auction is Coming!

(Save the date and start planning!)

Saturday March 25, 2006

ESUUC First Service Auction on Sardis Road

A service auction is a time-honored tradition among UU churches. It is a way to raise money for a church, have fun with friends and share some of our individual talents.

The general idea is that you provide a "donation" or "service" to be auctioned and bought by another member. Some suggestions might be:

- a 3 hour computer lesson
- an evening of babysitting
- a knitting lesson
- retirement planning
- how to plan a perennial garden
- 2 sessions of voice lessons
- a dozen fresh baked muffins for 6 months

The possibilities are endless and we all have a talent to share.

There will also be a silent auction for specialty items made by members and friends.

More information will be provided throughout the month of February - - - so stay tuned and start planning!

Feel Like Singing?

After the lively pancake breakfast and sing-a-long in January, you may be feeling like breaking out in song! Join the choir and enjoy singing with other like-minded members and friends. We practice and sing on the first Sunday of every month – meet at 9:30 am at the church. See Dr. Waun for more information.

Member David Schwartz's First Novel

Title: The Battle of Turkeyfoot Ridge

By: David L. Schwartz

First novel set in the Civil War in Tennessee. Five Union soldiers, cooks for an Ohio company, get separated from their comrades in a fight. They go through a series of adventures before getting back to their company, then win a battle without firing a single shot.

If anyone is interested in reading this novel, you can purchase it online at infinitypublishing.com, look under Fiction, War.

Book Club

The January book club meeting will be held Thursday, January 26 at 7:30 pm at the Panera in the Miracle Mile Shopping Center in the Conference Room.

The book is August Wilson's play "Fences", recommended by our Ms. Devlin. This selection also ties in with a Sunday service (February 19) centering on the play.

The book for February is "God's Dog: Conversations With Coyote" by Webster Kitchell. The date is not yet set; please contact Treasurer@esuuc.org for more information.

Finally, as a special treat in March, we will be reading "The Battle of Turkeyfoot Ridge", a novel authored by ESUUC member David Schwartz. David will bring about 8 copies of the book to the January meeting – they will be available at a special price.

Teen (and pre-Teen) Book Club

The teen book club is expected to meet in February, but details were not available at the time of this printing. Please contact REdirector@esuuc.org for details. New members are welcome!

Conversational Spanish

Several people have expressed an interest in meeting with Rosa Thomson to practice speaking in Spanish. The fee would be \$10 per person at each session. If you are interested, please contact Jean Robl at 412-372-8972 or BandJRobl@hotmail.com

Chocolate Truffle Fundraiser - Cancelled

Due to scheduling conflicts, the Valentine's Day chocolate truffle fundraiser is being cancelled. We hope to reschedule this fundraiser for Mother's Day.

Basketball Tickets - Winner

The lucky winner of two basketball tickets from Marylyn Devlin, the Christmas play director, was Sidney Dunnett!!

"Let Us Sing" in Honor or Memory of ...WHO?

Our Chancel Choir has a wish list of about a dozen musical anthems they would like to sing for services, and so they have come up with a creative way to purchase sets of music that would allow them to do so.

If you would like the choir to sing an anthem in honor or memory of a loved one, you are invited to contribute the cost of one set of anthem sheet music (\$20). On the Sunday your anthem is sung, a tribute will be printed in the bulletin as well as in the newsletter. This is a meaningful way to honor those we love as well as to enhance our worship services and to supplement our music budget as well.

Contributions for anthems may be given to our Treasurer Cathy Serventi with a note for "Choir Anthem". Please also identify the tribute (in honor/memory of _____ given by _____), and Rev. Waun will be in touch with you about the date it will be sung by the choir. Thank you!

Tour: People and Places of the Civil Rights Movement

Some of the places of the civil rights movement are readily accessible: the Edmund Pettus bridge in Selma, 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, the church whose burning drew Chaney, Schwerner and Goodman to Philadelphia, Mississippi. But fewer and fewer of the people who gave such places their meaning survive to talk with us. Both places and people are included in a tour being offered in March of 2006 by Meadville Lombard Theological School.

The March 18-26 tour has been planned and will be led by the Rev. Dr. Gordon Gibson, who was involved in the early stages of the 1965 Selma voting rights campaign and was the Unitarian Universalist minister in Mississippi 1969-84. He led similar tours in 2004 and 2005.

The tour, by luxury motor coach, will include all admission charges, overnight accommodations, and most meals in the \$1,000 cost. Visits with 1960s activists and videos on the bus will supplement the site visits. The tour will begin and end in Chicago, Illinois.

For full details and registration information, you can visit the Meadville Lombard website (www.meadville.edu) or write to the Academic Office, Meadville Lombard Theological School, 5701 S. Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637.

Registration is on a first-come basis with some of the 30 seats reserved for theological students who will be taking this as a credit course.

A participant in the 2004 Tour said, "the stories from the folks who were 'in the trenches' make the Movement come alive." Another participant described it as "seeing the Movement through the real experiences of real people."

Wheel of the Year – 1st Celebration

Please join us on **Thursday, February 2 at 7:30 pm** in celebrating the first of the "Wheel of the Year" celebrations. We begin 2006 with Imbolc: celebrating the earth with the time when the ewe's milk has come in. As the birth of the Sun at Yule, so the Earth has begun the nurturing time and Brigit, the Celtic goddess, is celebrated as the motherly nurturing aspect of the earth. This celebration is also known as Candlemas, Imbolg, Imbolg brigantia, Lupercus, and Disting.

IMBOLC: The earliest whisperings of Springtide are heard now as the Goddess nurtures Her Young Son. As a time of the year associated with beginning growth, Imbolc is an initiatory period for many. Here we plant the "seeds" of our hopes and dreams for the coming summer months. Weather permitting, we will be able to walk the labyrinth in meditation. Please contact Leona Dunnett at 724-327-3841 or secretary@esuuc.org with any questions.

Family Drumming Circle

Saturday, February 4 at 4:00 pm - Come one, come all and join in the FUN! Drum along with other people of ALL ages and ability levels. Bring your drums or use ours - we have plenty to share. Snack foods are welcome, too. Your kids will LOVE it and you will, too!

Workshop on Addiction

A workshop on Addiction is coming to First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh on February 4. All interested members of your congregation are invited to attend. It will be led by **Rev. Denis Meacham**, a certified addictions counselor, affiliate minister at First Parish Brewster in Cape Cod, MA and director of its Center for Addictions Ministry. The workshop will explore components of a lay-led addictions ministry and will provide inspiration, guidance and tools for launching and sustaining a congregation-based program to identify and support individual members affected by drug and alcohol addiction. Rev. Meacham's ministry was featured in the July/August 2004 issue of the Unitarian Universalist World. He has written a book entitled *The Addiction Ministry Handbook: A Guide for Faith Communities*, which was published by Skinner House Books, an imprint of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

The workshop will be held **Saturday, February 4, from 12 pm- 4 pm** at the First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh. There will be a small cost, \$10, which will include lunch. Rev. Meacham will also be conducting our services at ESUUC on the following Sunday. For more information, contact Jane Dudley at 412-731-1812 or jad9+@pitt.edu or fortdudley@earthlink.net .

Parent Meeting for 2006-'07 COA Class

The next Coming Of Age (COA) class is almost upon us! We would like to get together with the parents of next year's COA candidates to go over the program, talk about changes, and answer any questions you may have. Please plan to join us on **Saturday, February 11 at 9:30 am**. Meeting should run between 1 and 1 1/2 hours. You should get some information on the program via e-mail about 1 week ahead of time. If you don't see it come through, please contact REdirector@esuuc.org .

"Chili Dump"

Come One Come All- - -Ya'll

Join us **Saturday, February 11 at 6:00 pm** for some fun during the long days of winter. Here is the general idea (we think). You make a batch of your favorite chili recipe at home. Then bring a container to church with enough chili to generously serve your family. When you get to church your container will be "dumped" in a pot with all the other secret recipes from other households. A mysterious surprise will emerge and hopefully delight us all.

We will plan on two pots of chili—one with meat, one without meat, so have some fun. Grated cheese, sour cream, chips, soda and juice will be provided by church. Bring along a dessert to share and an "adult" beverage if you like.

....oh yeh and one more thing.....bring a game for kids and/or adults (if you want) to entertain while the chili is a heatin' up.

We will plan to eat around 7PM See ya there—ya'll



Judith Avers to Sing at ESUUC – Feb 12

Nationally known singer-song writer **Judith Avers** will present our program on **Sunday, February 12**. Born and raised in Southwest Kansas, she eventually moved to Colorado, in a new state, with no friends, no job and plenty of time to practice on her brother-in-law's acoustic guitar. She started writing songs and later decided to start a band called I Know Jack, with the help of harmonica man Dan Barerras.

Since then, she has gone on her own, recording and performing all over the country, establishing an insanely loyal following. In late 2003 she released 2 self-produced albums and has sold upwards of 3000 units at shows along the way. More recently, in July 2005 she co-produced her latest CD “Strong Hands” with Jack Redell. (Founder of Satire Records, The National Underground and winner of Denver’s Choice Best Male Singer/Songwriter).

In late July 2005, Judith relocated to West Virginia. Judith has been blessed to share the stage with some amazing musicians such as Holly Near, Glen Phillips and more. She truly loves writing and performing. Here is a review of her latest CD *Strong Hands* (Satire Records). *This past spring, Judith Avers quietly left Denver for the hills of West Virginia. Sadly, she moved before folks really got a chance to know her, but at least she left behind this achingly beautiful disc to remember her by. Strong Hand’s sparse arrangements allow Avers’s beguiling voice to take center stage. If only those hands were strong enough to keep her here.*

– **Dave Herrera**

Council of Committees

There will be a Council of Committees meeting on **February 12 following the church service**. We will present the results of the Annual Retreat, in which we imagined what ESUUC might accomplish in 2006. This will be used to launch the planning process for next year, including starting on budgets and a discussion of how we can make some of our internal procedures more efficient. We will keep the meeting short – all officers and committee chairs are encouraged to attend.

Drumming Circle

Sunday, February 19 at 7:30 pm – Drum, chant, meditate and groove with new and old friends as we relax and rejuvenate in the power of creating music together. No experience necessary and no skill required. Bring your drums or use ours. Why not give it a try? If you just can’t get enough drumming, check out the drumming events at www.thegreenbough.com.

Movie Night

We will have our next movie night on **Friday, February 24**. Doors open at **7:30 pm** and the movie starts at **8:00 pm**. We will be showing “Millions.” Please feel free to bring refreshments to share.

Starting anew after the death of their mother, 9-year-old Anthony is ever practical, while his 7-year-old brother Damian uses imagination, fantasy, and faith to make sense of his confusing world. When a suitcase full of money falls out of the sky at Damian’s feet, it sets the boys on the adventure of a lifetime that leads them to realize that true wealth has nothing to do with money.

This movie is rated PG and is 1 hour 37 minutes long.

Junior High Con

After much consideration, we (the RE Directors in the Pittsburgh area) have determined that February 11 is not a good day for the Con. We will instead be holding it on **Saturday, March 4** from **9:30 am-3 pm** at **First Church in Pittsburgh**. The theme will be “Social Justice”. The Con is open to Jr. High students – or 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders, and is specifically aimed at those who have never attended a Con before. (If you have attended one before, we would definitely encourage you to come as well!) Kate Begg plans to attend and can take 6 people with her, so let her know (Redirector@esuuc.org) if you need a ride. We can meet somewhere in Murrysville and go together.

District Men's Retreat

The District Men's Retreat will be held **March 10-12**. This 16th annual event is open to all UU men of the district and will feature the leadership of **The Rev. David McFarland** of the Allegheny UUC on the topic of "*Mind-Body Connection*", exploring the possibilities of how our minds and bodies work together. The retreat is held at a beautiful country estate called Sandscrest near Wheeling, WV and will also include ample opportunities for recreation and fun. The cost is \$170, which includes 6 gourmet meals and top-notch lodging. For registration and more information, call **Bill Kroesser**, 304-744-3114.

Tour Alaska with UUs

Five Alaskan UU fellowships invite other UUs to our eco-cultural programs in June, July and August 2006. See the *REAL* Alaska! Alaskan UUs provide Bed & Breakfast accommodations in their homes in Anchorage, Seward, Fairbanks, Juneau and Sitka, lead tours and hikes, and host parties. Visit with Tlingit, Inupiat, and other Native Alaskans. See whales, sea otters, sea lions, seals, bears, moose, caribou, wolves, puffins, eagles, and other birds in the wild from the Arctic Ocean to the Inside Passage in the south, and visit Denali and other national parks. Rev. Dick & Mary Weston-Jones, leaders. Visit website www.wuurld.org, e-mail dick@wuurld.org, or phone toll-free 1-888- 998-8753 for a brochure. Taking reservations now.

Sunday Refreshments

A time-honored tradition among Unitarian Churches is to gather for "social hour" immediately following Sunday service. At ESUUC we gather in the community room for coffee, juice, something tasty to eat and spirited conversation. It is a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet some new friends at church. Each member is asked to take a turn throughout the year providing, serving and cleaning up refreshments. With everyone taking a turn it is usually once a year that we are called upon. The schedule tends to go alphabetically so you can get a rough idea when your name may come up.

Don't worry if you are not a cook---store-bought treats work quite well. There is a "guide to setting up refreshments" posted in the kitchen and at the end of the September 2005 newsletter. If this is your first time you may want to review it a couple of weeks before you take your turn to get an idea of the flow. If you have any questions or are daunted by the thought of serving refreshments, please call Kate Codd-Palmer at (724) 325-3903. Don't think she will let you off the hook, however, we all seem to like to eat.

The refreshment table is located in the far corner of the community room. This area also serves as a religious education room for the children during service. You may consider preparing the table before service starts, so the children are not interrupted during class time. There is also a cart in the kitchen that can be used to place food items on and be wheeled into the community room after service.

Refreshments Roster

If the week you are assigned doesn't work with your schedule, please switch with someone else for that month.

Feb 5	Mehernosh Khan
Feb 12	Glenn and Marcia Klepac
Feb 19	Mary Kukura-Straw
Feb 26	Maureen and Jerry Lilly

Mar 5	Jane Longdon
Mar 12	Maria and Tom Luczkow
Mar 19	Laurie Montgomery
Mar 26	Maureen McHugh

RE Class Schedule

Nursery:	Day	Teacher
	Feb 5	Maria Luczkow
	12	Natalie Mendik
	19	Mary Warwick
	26	Cathy Serventi

Lower Elementary:	Day	Class Description	Teacher
	Feb 5	Kids Attend First Part of Service, followed by Children's Chapel	
	12	Feelings about Nature (Session 11)	Mary Kukura-Straw
	19	The Web of Interdependence (Sessn 12)	Kate Zingarelli
	26	Service Project	

Upper Elementary:	Day	Class Description	Teacher
	Feb 5	Kids Attend First Part of Service, followed by Children's Chapel	
	12	The Tree With Forbidden Fruit	Kathy Ruffing
	19	Easy Choices/Hard Choices	Ken Noble
	26	Service Project	

Middle School:	Day	Class Description	Teacher
	Feb 5	Kids Attend First Part of Service, followed by Children's Chapel	
	12	Leadership	Marianne Jew
	19	Peacefulness	Laurie Montgomery
	26	Service Project	

Youth Group

Youth Group meetings (all are **Sunday evenings**, from **6-8pm**): **February 12, 26.**

Dates and times are subject to change, so please check for updates: contact Leona Dunnett, Youth Advisor (secretary@esuuc.org).

Barter Board

If you have items to trade/sell, or have needs, you can post to the Barter Board.

The Board is located in the RE hallway on the Community Bulletin Board. To use, fill out a card (available on the Barter Board itself) describing your item or need, then pin it up in the appropriate column of the Barter Board.

Want your item listed in the weekly newsletter? Fill out an extra copy of the card and give it to Leona Dunnett, put it in the Secretary's mailbox, or e-mail the info to Leona at secretary@esuuc.org.

Get the Weekly Email News

If you would like to receive a weekly email that includes items not in the newsletter and reminders of upcoming events for the week, please send an email from the address you would like subscribed to **esuuc_news@esuuc.org**. You can also send a message to that address if you would like it included in the weekly email announcement to the congregation. If the message can't wait for the weekly announcement, please contact Leona at secretary@esuuc.org. No attachments please.