

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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June 2006

Editor: Marianne Jew
newsletter@esuuc.org

ESUUC Sunday Services

Sunday, June 4, 10:30 am – “*Remembering Kite Runners*”- from the highly acclaimed novel by an Afghani immigrant we get the image of a child who betrayed a friend and lived to regret and rework the outcome. What part does unfinished business have in our lives and what do we do about it, if anything? **Dr. Waun** will present.

Sunday, June 11, 10:30am– “*The Greatest of These is Love*” –this is Flower Communion Sunday as well as Teacher Recognition day where we honor the contribution of time and energy of our Sunday school teachers. Love is the thread that ties us together in worship and service and makes of us a bouquet of beauty and acceptance. **Dr. Waun** will present.

Sunday, June 18, 10:30 am – “*Islam in Turkey*” - For 3000 years Turkey was the crossroad of civilization. The modern Turkish Republic inherited most of its culture and religious understanding from the mighty Ottoman Empire, which ruled much of Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa between the 13th and 20th centuries. This presentation by **Mustafa Kucukkal** and his wife **Tugba Kucukkal** will highlight the influences of Islam on Turkish culture.

Sunday, June 25, 10:30 am – “*Poetry--The Essence of Communion*” - An open-mike service moderated by **Mehernosh Khan**. Bring poems (yours and others) about 1-2 minutes long, relating to our common joys and concerns, love and tears.

Sunday, July 2, 10:30 am – “*Animal Blessing*”-We present again this popular summer worship event where you are invited to bring your favorite animal(s) to church with you for and intergenerational time of honoring and blessing the creatures that share our planet. **Dr. Waun** will officiate.



Pastor's Column: Transition Time

by Rev. Renee Waun

June is a time of transitions as we think about school ending and people graduating and program years coming to a close. Here at East Suburban UUC we are once again experiencing a change of leadership on our Board, as we say "good-bye" to our President Maureen McHugh. She has shown formidable leadership during her two-year tenure, bringing ideas and energies to tasks great and small. Maureen has also captured a vision of new fundraising efforts and has personally shepherded several profitable projects in the past two years. Along with her Board duties, Maureen has also presented Sunday programs and Adult RE classes that have been successful and inspiring, and advised various committees in their work. She will be missed!

As we end this 2005-2006 program year, let us show our gratitude to those who have served us so well, and welcome to the forefront those who are now stepping up to take the Board into the next chapter of our life together.

We are always so fortunate here at ESUUC to have such wonderful and skilled leaders at the helm of the church. I congratulate and thank them all!



mUUsings from the President:

by Maureen McHugh

Planning and Celebration

June marks the end of my term as President of the Board, and this will be my last column. I welcome the (soon to be elected) incoming President Matt Mathis, and wish the incoming Board a successful year. I am happy with the progress we made as a community during my two year term including the installment of the tapestry, the establishment of the Committee on Ministry and the pastoral care team, the revitalization of adult RE, and our continuing commitment to community service.

June will be a busy month for us. In the early days of June we will host two special presentations. As an extension of the series on Raising our Sons, **Jennifer Halperin**, the RE director from First Church and a member of our congregation, will be sharing her work on *Gender and Religious Education* on Thursday, June 1 at 7:30. On Monday, June 5, we will host **Dr. Kent Moor**, an oil policy analyst, speaking on *Meeting The Challenge*. According to Moors, an internationally recognized expert in global oil/natural gas policy and finance, we are rapidly reaching a crisis in the global oil market. In this engaging and informative public lecture, government adviser and oil sector consultant, Dr. Kent Moors will provide a discussion of the problems developing and the national energy plan we need to meet them.

We are in the process of planning for our Annual Meeting and Dinner to be held on June 10, 2006. This event is both a celebration of our community and a chance to reach consensus on our financial plan. Please participate in the planning through the committee structure, through the pledge process, and by attending the town meeting on Sunday, June 4, after the Sunday service. This meeting is the chance to discuss the budget

in detail. Most importantly we hope to celebrate with you at the Annual dinner. Please RSVP by emailing me, or by signing up at the Church.

The Annual meeting, the pledge process, and the passage of the budget require active participation by all our members. This is one way in which we differ from other larger denominations and congregations. We do not have a benefactor or funds flowing from a central office. Nor do we have a hierarchy or denominational rules to follow. As a small and committed community, we work to establish consensus rather operate on the principle of majority rule, or single party decision-making. Participating in this process can be part of our personal spiritual growth and can contribute to our ability to actively participate in other organizations. We remain committed to reaching consensus through discussion, and we can each learn new ways to participate in groups by doing so.

By changing the way that we make decisions and relate to each other, we are participating in a global change process. According to Jean Shinoda Bolen, "When a critical number of people change how they think and behave, the culture also does, and a new era begins." Here is a passage from her text, *The Millionth Circle: How to Change Ourselves and the World* : (The use of woman as generic for human is also a lesson is gender awareness.)

The idea of a circle of equals is held as a common intention. Each woman is committed to developing and maintaining it, for herself and for the circle. Every woman in the circle matters to herself and to the circle. Every woman contributes to the circle by her presence, and when she speaks, by what she discerns and shares. Once the circle is formed, any significant decision needs to be made by a process of consensus. This only works if there is honesty. If one fears to be truthful, lest feelings be hurt or punishment follows, there is codependency. Co-dependency and equality are incompatible. Silence is consent. Each woman has a responsibility to the circle to pay attention to what is going on in herself and in the circle and to speak up...Balance comes from hearing from everyone.

'06-'07 Budget Deficit – Please Attend Town Hall Meeting

Help us establish a Mission for next year for the church. We as a congregation, need to make some difficult decisions about what our funding priorities and, by extension, our church's mission will be for the next year. At the time of this writing that, mainly because of a significant reduction in pledging from last year, the budget as proposed includes a \$15,000 operating budget deficit and an additional \$5400 dollars in additional spending. Hopefully some additional pledges will come in during the next several weeks before the annual meeting.

I'd like to call everyone's attention to the Town Hall meeting that is scheduled for **June 4 after church**. This time is an opportunity for anyone who is interested in the nitty gritty of the budget process. Because there is also so much to accomplish during the Annual Meeting, the time constraints are not ideal for a detailed debate about the budget. Please be aware that because of personal reasons neither I nor Chris Priano, the Finance Committee Chair, will be able to attend the Annual Meeting on June 10 so we're hoping that we can reach a consensus among the congregation at the Town Hall Meeting.

If you can't attend the Town Hall meeting but have suggestions or concerns that you would like to have brought up please contact me and I will make sure your concerns are addressed in the meeting.

Sincerely,
Cathy Serventi (724) 387-1155
Treasurer treasurer@esuuc.org

Pastoral Care Available

Just a friendly reminder that we now have six trained members of the Pastoral Care Team in place at ESUUC who are available to assist in pastoral care matters (Nancy Fitzgerald, Karen Katilius, Maria Luczkow, Michael Safran, Rosa Thompson, and Renee Waun).

Care Notes

Please keep Mark and Rosa Thompson in your thoughts as Mark had a recent death in his family. Helen Kavalkovitch recently had back surgery and is on the road to recovery. Congratulations to Maura Barrett who will be graduating from Franklin Regional High School, Bridget Barrett who graduated for IUP, Glen Halperin who will be graduating from Franklin Regional High School, and Jessie Messina who graduated from Pitt. Ben Faigen was accepted at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. Justin Beckwith and Sara Schein were married at ESUUC on May 13th 2006. The congregation at ESUUC celebrated the child dedication of Jeremy Safran, son of Michael and Tracy Safran on May 7th, 2006.

If anyone has any news that they want to share please send it to newsletter@esuuc.org

"Thank You" to RE Volunteers!

A special thank you to the many people who have volunteered in RE (Religious Education) this year:

Our congregation has been very fortunate to have so many wonderful people step up and volunteer their time in our Religious Education program; not just as teachers, but as helpers in the service projects and in the fundraising activities for next year's Coming of Age program. I extend my personal thanks to each and every one of you. Without the time and effort you put in, our program would not be possible. You are all very special and your efforts are very much appreciated. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

- Kate and Dan Begg, RE Directors

UUA General Assembly

Matt Mathis will be attending the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly June 21-25 in St. Louis, as our representative. The GA includes a myriad of programs, worship services, business events and exhibits covering all aspects of our faith.

A significant portion of this meeting will be considering issues relating how our denomination as a whole, with its extremely broad constituency, addresses social action issues. There are a number of bylaw changes designed to strengthen the process by which we develop a common stance on societal action issues.

There is also one such "study/action" issue under consideration: "Should the UUA reject the use of any and all kinds of violence and war to resolve disputes between peoples and nations, and adopt a principle of seeking just peace through nonviolent means?"

Everyone who has questions or views on these issues is encouraged to speak to Matt. The most up to date agenda and background material is on-line at the UUA web site.

Uganda Update

Many of you have been asking how the African Rural Schools Foundation is coming along. Dr. Waun has been sharing information about the ARSF with other area churches and is getting interest in supporting the project in a variety of ways. An artist from Wheeling is developing a logo for the Puppy Project, which is

the pen pal idea. A web designer from Morningside is working on a website. Our own church Treasurer Cathy Serventi is receiving the monetary contributions into a special account for the ARSF so that they are tax deductible while ARSF pursues its nonprofit status. One person from our congregation is planning a trip to visit the ARSF and volunteer there for a couple of weeks in October. It is very gratifying to see how a worthy idea such as this can take root, grow and blossom in wonderful ways. The website will be completed by the middle of June. The address is www.arsf.org. Check it out.

Dr. Waun Elected President of MIM



Our congregation is one of seven faith groups that comprise the Monroeville Interfaith Ministerium (Jewish, Moslem, Hindu, Jain, Sikh, Christian and Unitarian Universalist). Dr. Waun has been a member of MIM since 1999 when she first came to our congregation. On May 3 she was elected the President of MIM, to take effect in September. The ministerium's mission is to promote fellowship among the religious leaders, to promote the unity of people of all faiths, and to promote compassion and justice, all in the greater Monroeville area.

Transylvania News

There are ten folks who are going on the Heritage trip to Transylvania in July, representing five from our congregation, one from Sunnyhill, one from First Unitarian, two from Allegheny UUC and one from Wheeling. They will be visiting our partner church Kopec, and hosted in homes by Unitarians coordinated by Romanian minister Rev. Alpar Kiss. The Kopec church has not had a building of its own, but has been worshipping in the living room of an elderly member who has just moved to a nursing home. Rev Kiss has gotten permission from that nursing home to hold the worship services there, and to include the home's residents in church activities. Our tour group will get to see many UU landmark sites and meet people who are kindred spirits with us. A Sunday program will be presented after the group returns home.

New Choir Leadership

There has been a change in the choir. Have you noticed? Our talented **Music Director Brian Ogle** has stepped forward to accept the responsibility of directing the choir. He brings commitment and enthusiasm for the task and would like to hear from you if you are interested in being part of our growing choir. In addition to the regular choir we will be hearing from the quartet from time to time, coordinated by Alan Halperin. Three cheers for Brian and Alan and our joyful singers!

Have a Family-Friendly Summer !

Several weeks ago Jean Robl passed around a clipboard for you to make suggestions for our family-friendly summer programs. Your enthusiastic and thoughtful response was heartening. We have incorporated as many of your thoughts as we had space for and will keep the list for future reference. Again, we thank you for your input, and please feel free to continue to suggest program ideas for the coming church year. The Program Committee meets the first Sunday of each month after church and we encourage everyone to drop in and join us any time.

Join the Choir!

The choir welcomes new singers and will now meet at 12:00 to 12:45 every Sunday after church except the first Sunday of each month when we meet at 9:30 am. We will be exploring UU choral music and will eventually be singing at most of the services. Please share your singing talents with the UU community and help make this group blossom.

How Shall We Celebrate?

ESUUC has its 40th anniversary in the fall of 2006. We're thinking about how to mark the occasion. Watch for a poster page in the lobby to put down your ideas. You can also tell them or send them to Nancy Fitzgerald at church or nmeyerfitz@verizon.net.

Gender and Religious Education

As an extension of the series on Raising our Sons, **Jennifer Halperin**, the RE director from First Church and a member of our congregation, will be sharing her work on *Gender and Religious Education* on **Thursday, June 1 at 7:30 pm.**

"Meeting The Oil Challenge"

The Murrysville democrats will be sponsoring a non-partisan, non-political, public lecture given by Dr. Kent F. Moors, an internationally recognized expert in global oil/natural gas policy and finance entitled "Meeting the Oil Challenge". Dr. Moors is a Professor in the Graduate Center for Social and Public Policy at Duquesne University where he directs the Energy Policy Research Group. In this highly engaging and informative public lecture, Dr. Moors will discuss the problems concerning the current energy crisis and ideas about an energy plan that could overcome these problems. This program will take place at ESUUC on **Monday, June 5, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.**

"Expanding Regional Equity"

Sunday, June 11, Noon- Sandwich Board Lunch and presentation by fellow UU from the North Hills church, **Sharon Pillar**. The topic is "*Expanding Regional Equity in Southwestern PA*". Sharon's work is the result of graduate research. In this presentation she will address the causes of disparity in Western PA, how to influence or improve the situation, how to expand awareness of the importance of the region and to increase the sense of citizenship beyond one's own municipality.

Please RSVP to Dr. Waun 412-731-2834, revmom@pitt.edu by June 7 for lunch planning. Sharon has promised to bring **home made pies!!** Please join us for this important topic.

Summer Solstice Planning Meeting

All are welcome to attend the Summer Solstice Planning Meeting on **Thursday June 15 at 7 or 7:30 pm.** Any questions, please contact Leona Dunnett at secretary@esuuc.org or Kate Begg at redirector@esuuc.org

Book Club

The next book club meeting will be on **Thursday, June 22 at 7:30 pm** at the Penn Center Panera (near Sears on Route 22). The book is "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini. Everyone and their mother seems to be reading this book, so it's a timely choice. Our church service on June 4 will also reference this book.

The August meeting will be **Thursday, Aug 31 at 7:30 pm** at Mary Warwick's house. We'll send out directions closer to the date. The book is David McCullough's "Johnstown Flood".

At the August meeting we will draw names for each month of the person who will pick the books for the upcoming year. If you can't make the August meeting and still want your name in the hat let us know and we'll make sure everyone gets included. For more information, contact Cathy at treasurer@esuuc.org

Summer Solstice Celebration/Bonfire

Join us in our next Wheel of the Year celebration. Bring lawn chairs, food and drink to share, drums or any musical instruments you care to share. Please dress according to the weather. Any questions please contact Leona Dunnett at secretary@essuc.org or Kate Begg at redirector@esuuc.org

Summer Solstice Celebration /Bonfire June 24th, around 7:30pm

With the warmth of the season caressing the land, the celebration of the Summer Solstice brings forth a truly joyous recognition that we can now enjoy the fruits of our labors in the past season. It is not surprising that this same spirit of pleasure and fun had carried over into our modern-day recognition of this, the longest day of the year. Falling on or about June 22nd, the Summer Solstice is a time of light and of fire. It is a time to reflect upon the growth of the season: the seeds that were planted in the earth and the seeds planted in our souls. It is a time of cleansing and renewal. It is a time of love and growth as well.

This is the time of the first harvest, which usually consisted of the herbs planted during the Vernal Equinox. Used for food, medicines and ritual, these gifts of the land clearly denote the importance of the harvest and the cycle of growth to the body, mind and soul. With all the reference to the cycle of life, it is small wonder that June has been the month for both Handfastings (trothing to one another in the Olde Way) and weddings. The pull to bring forth the harvest of feelings is as bountiful as the harvest of the land.

Even today, as we enjoy our summer vacations, we, too, reap the bounty of the past season of labor and renew ourselves to face the coming of fall.

Family Drumming and Drumming Circle

Both Family Drumming Circle (very kid-friendly) and Drumming Circle (think "groove and meditate") are on their traditional summer break for June, July and August. Regularly scheduled monthly drumming events at the church will return in September.

However, that doesn't mean there are no opportunities to drum! Several gatherings of ESUUC drummers will be materializing throughout the summer at different locations to allow us to drum in various natural settings (weather permitting). If you are interested in hosting a gathering, please tell a drummer so we can pull that together. A Sunday morning program on drumming is tentatively scheduled for August at ESUUC. In addition, many drumming events are being held in the region. A couple of sites to watch are:

www.TheGreenBough.com, www.jimdonovanmusic.com and www.4qf.org

Please check the weekly email updates for up-to-the-minute drum info, or email drumming@esuuc.org, or call Jen at 412-608-2725.

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.

Summer – no schedule - BYO

There will be no schedule for Sunday refreshments for the months of July and August, however we all enjoy beverages, snacks and conversation in the community room after service---even in summer! Please consider brining along something cool to drink or tasty to nibble on during the summer months. Feel free to make a pot of coffee as well. If you have any questions, call Kate Codd-Palmer (724) 325-3903.

Refreshments Roster

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

June 4	George Ratliff
June 11	Cathy Serventi/Gene Wilson
June 18	April Soulé
June 25	Mary Warwick

JULY and AUGUST: no refreshment schedule, simply "bring your own" & visit. See note above.

Registration For RE 2006-07

We have only received a couple of registration forms for the fall. Please turn yours in as soon as possible. We need to finish planning and getting next year's schedule set.

A copy of the 2006 to 2007 RE Registration Form is located at the end of this newsletter. If you would like to register your child(ren) and/or have any questions, please contact us at redirector@esuuc.org

RE Class Schedule

Nursery:	Day	Teacher
	June 4	Mary Warwick
	11	Flower Communion, Family Friendly Intergenerational Service (no Nursery)
NO NURSERY DURING THE SUMMER; Please register now for the Fall		

Lower Elementary:	Day	Class Description	Teacher
	June 4	Kids Attend First Part of Service, followed by Children's Chapel	Gayle Pamerleau
	11	Flower Communion, Family Friendly Intergenerational Service (no RE)	
NO RE DURING THE SUMMER; Please register now for the Fall			

Upper Elementary:	Day	Class Description	Teacher
	June 4	Kids Attend First Part of Service, followed by Children's Chapel	Gayle Pamerleau
	11	Flower Communion, Family Friendly Intergenerational Service (no RE)	
NO RE DURING THE SUMMER; Please register now for the Fall			

Middle School:	Day	Class Description	Teacher
	June 4	Kids Attend First Part of Service, followed by meeting on CoA fundraising	Marianne Jew
	11	Flower Communion, Family Friendly Intergenerational Service (no RE)	
NO RE DURING THE SUMMER; Please register now for the Fall			

Youth Group

Youth Group meetings (all are **Sunday evenings**, from **6-8pm**): **June 4, 18**

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.

Congregational Committees

Committee – Chair (email)

Aesthetics – Jean Robl and Maureen Lilly Building and Facilities – Jim Osborne Caring & Concerns – Maria Luczkow (caring@esuuc.org) Committee on Ministry – open Community – Kate Codd-Palmer Finance – Chris Priano Landscaping – Laurie Montgomery Membership – Marylyn Devlin	Music – Alan Halperin Religious Education – Kate Zingarelli Signs and Symbols – Leona Dunnett Social Enrichment – open Drumming – Jen Trout Osborne (drumming@esuuc.org) Sunday Programs/Celebrations – Brian Ogle Welcoming Congregation – Matt Mathis
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Calendar

Thu. June 1	“Gender and Religious Education” presentation – 7:30 pm at the church
Sun. June 4	Choir Rehearsal – 9:30 am at the church
Sun. June 4	Town Hall meeting for 2006-2007 budget Q and A – 12:15 pm at the church
Sun. June 4	Youth Group – 6-8 pm at the church
Mon. June 5	“Meeting the Oil Challenge” – 7:30 pm at the church
Wed. June 7	Board Meeting – 7:30 pm at the church
Sat. June 10	ESUUC Annual Dinner and Meeting – 6 pm at the church
Sun. June 11	Choir Rehearsal – 12 noon at the church
Sun. June 11	“Expanding Regional Equity” – 12 noon at the church
Thu. June 15	Summer Solstice planning meeting – 7 or 7:30 pm at the church
Sun. June 18	Youth Group – 6-8 pm at the church
Sun. June 18	Choir Rehearsal – 12 noon at the church
Thu. June 22	Book Club “The Kite Runner” – 7:30 pm at the Penn Center Panera
Sat. June 24	“Wheel of the Year” celebration: Summer Solstice – 7:30 pm at the church
Sun. June 25	Choir Rehearsal – 12 noon at the church

Newsletter Deadlines

July 2005 newsletter deadline: **Sunday, June 18**

Please email your articles to newsletter@esuuc.org or call Marianne at (724) 325-1548 and leave a message with your news, stories, and other information.

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 Cathy at treasurer@esuuc.org. No attachments please.

Registration Form ESUUC RE Program 2006 to 2007 Year

Childs

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Grade on Sept. 1, 2006: _____

Please note any allergies or other special conditions: _____

Parent(s) Name(s): _____

Are you interested in teaching/participating in the RE program? Yes No

My preference would be to teach the following section: (Please circle all that apply)

Nursery :	Elementary:	Upper:	Coming of Age:
Through 3yrs	4 yrs – 3rd grade	4th – 7th grade	8th and 9th grade

Class assignments are based on age on Sept. 1, 2006.

Do you or your children have any concerns we should be aware of?

Any other comments?

Would you be interested in having you child attend OWL? (No OWL sessions are scheduled for this year – but we are planning for the future.)

(Class parameters are subject to change depending on number and ages of children registering for the program)