

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 4, 10:30 am – *“Who Are U and U?”* - As a UU, did you ever wonder what the distinction is between the Unitarian and the Universalist parts of our name? Dr. Waun will help us to see historical similarities as well as differences that are fascinating to explore as we find more ways to appreciate who we are as a religious movement.

THIS IS ALSO BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY, WITH A LUNCH COOKED BY COA KIDS!

Sunday, January 11, 10:30 am – *“That Was the Year that Was”*- Marylyn Devlin and George Ratliff will discuss the incredible events of 2008 from the election to the economy and everything in between. Of course, they want your participation as well. Also, if time permits (it was a heck of a year!), Marylyn will lead us in a letter writing activity to ourselves to check our personal progress in 2009. If you are interested, bring a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Sunday, January 18, 10:30 am – *“Green Home Series”*- This services kicks off our Green Home Series to be conducted every third Sunday of the month until summer. This week Merritt Bailey will provide tips for green living in the home.

Sunday, January 25, 10:30 am – *“Lessons from Little Bit”*- Musician and speaker BJ Searcy is our guest speaker this week.

Sunday, February 1, 10:30 am -- *“Imbolc”* -- Join us as the congregation celebrates the Celtic holiday of Imbolc. Rev. Waun will be in Uganda.

Sunday, February 8, 10:30 am -- *“Brothers' Brother Foundation, a local charity that acts globally”* Karen Dempsey, a vice-president of the foundation, will speak about this charity and the good works it does from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. Forbes Magazine rates this as one of the most efficient charities. In these times of financial stress, we want to choose our charities with especial care.



Pastor's Column:

Janus & Me

by Rev. Renee Waun

I love that Janus figure after whom January was named. You know, the guy who has two faces; one looking back and one looking ahead. It's the perfect image for starting a new year. We can see what "was" before, at the same time anticipating what "will be" in the days to come.

It's what happens in between the two faces--how I choose to think about the past and the future--that's the most important thing for me. The value of looking back is to sift through the contrast of what I liked and didn't like, and to set my intentions for what I want for the future. It's not productive to dwell on the past, but it is very helpful to consider what I've learned from the past when setting my intentions for what lies ahead. I can imagine all the enjoyment and abundance that is waiting for me, and then face into it; live into it; make it happen.

So as we approach this New Year, let's be filled with anticipation of all the wonderful things that lie ahead, in our individual lives, our families, our church and community, and then, let's make all those good things happen!

Religious Education

Elementary:

Jan. 4 Children's Chapel -- Julia Begg
Jan. 11 Jonah and the Big Fish -- Wendy Noe
Jan. 18 John the Baptist -- Natalie Mendik
Jan. 25 Service Project -- Kate Begg, Tabitha Riggio

Middle

Jan. 4 Children's Chapel -- Julia Begg
Jan. 11 And the Walls Came Tumbling Down -- Gayle Pamerleau
Jan. 18 Samson and Delilah -- Tabitha Riggio
Jan. 25 Service Project -- Kate Begg, Tabitha Riggio

COA

Jan. 4 Children's Chapel
Jan. 11 Islam -- Mary Kukura-Straw
Jan. 18 Islam -- Tom Bailey
Jan. 25 Service Project

Adult Religious Education

We will be exploring the video series "Thank God for Evolution" by Rev. Michael Dowd. It is described as "The epic of cosmic biological and human evolution revealed by science as the basis for an inspiring and meaningful view of our place in the universe." The adult RE will take place on the third Sunday of the month starting in January (except for June, it will be the 2nd Sunday because of Fathers day). We will meet from 12pm to 2 pm and during the first hour we will watch parts of the video series and have an interesting and lively discussion during the second hour. Because of the time I thought a casual pot luck lunch while we watch would be nice. All are welcome, feel free to invite neighbors, family and friends. Please help spread the word!

Annual All Church Retreat *Saturday, January 17*

This year's gathering is "Who Are U and U?" continuing the subject of our Jan. 4 Sunday program. It will be a time of exploring our UU roots and connections on all levels. Please plan to join us, and plan to share something with the group that shows us a side of you that we have not seen before, just for fun. (ie. Who Are You and You?)

The day will begin on Saturday, January 17th at 9am with coffee, juice and bagels, then include some presentations, small and large group activities, games and sharing. We will end by 3pm. Lunch will be provided. If you need childcare, you must register by January 12. Contact Leona Dunnett (724-327-3841.)

We hope you will all put this fun day on your calendar. The Annual Retreat is always a rich time of getting to know and appreciate one another in a deeper way. Our creative Board will facilitate.

News from the Treasurer

By Chris Priano

I hope everyone had a happy and enjoyable holiday season. Here's a summary of the church's financial status as of November 30, 2008:

Liquid assets, 7/1/08: \$ 4,311.14

Liquid assets, 11/30/08: \$ 4,118.49

Increase (decrease) in liquid assets: (\$ 192.65)

Net inflows: (\$ 192.65)

Prepaid mortgage funds, 11/30/08: \$12,327.08

Mortgage principal balance, 11/30/08: \$ 31,538.58

(Note: at the recommendation of the Finance Committee, I'm no longer including the prepaid mortgage money within liquid assets. I'll continue to present it as an informational item instead.)

If you need to know the balance due on your pledge, please e-mail me at treasurer@esuuc.org and I'll be happy to provide you with that information. During January, I'll be preparing statements detailing donations you made during the 2008 tax year. I'll also be generating W-2s and 1099s for employees and Rev. Waun.

For those of you who may be like me (definitely NOT a winter person), just remember that the days are gradually getting longer (if not warmer).

Caring and Concerns

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” - Leo Buscaglia

Happy Birthday!

Arron Bailey 13 years

(sorry we missed you for December newsletter)

Julia Begg

Laurel Noe

Alyssa Ruffing

Marilyn Devlin

Tabitha Riggio

Matt Mathis

Gayle Pamerleau

Happy Anniversary

Susan Goodis & Matt Mathis

As a Community, we share our positive energies to help those who are having difficult times...

Kate & Dan Begg for their sister-in-law, Tess

Rayna Faigen for her ongoing GI problems

Congratulations:

Brenda Shiring for her outstanding original Stone Soup and Holiday plays

Collections donated to the food bank totaled \$126.00 cash and 26 bags of groceries

Merritt Bailey for the lovely holiday presentation of “Singing Sunday”

Condolences and Rememberences:

Tom Bailey for the loss of his mother

Merritt Bailey for the loss of her 18 month child care student

Dan Begg for the loss of his nephew

Melissa Alcorn Ferry in memoriam for her nephew

For all those who have lost loved ones

“Life is not a brief candle... It is a splendid torch that must be made to burn as brightly as possible before it is handed on to the next generation.”

Each month, we will post this column for birthdays, anniversaries, honors, illnesses, or memorials.

Please contact Susan Goodis at Caring@ESUUC.org or call 412-609-1232 with events you wish to have included in our newsletter. Thank-you.

Mosquito Net Project Update

Over the past two months we have been part of a project to purchase insect-repellant treated bed nets for the students, staff, families and villagers in Uganda who are part of the African Rural Schools Foundation. Our goal is 1000 nets, purchased by the end of January, and we are making very good progress. If you visit

this web link, you will see exactly where we are to date, and you will also be able to make an online donation for the nets, which cost \$5 each (a bargain). www.AgainstMalaria.com/AfricanRuralSchools

Dr. Waun (Founding Sponsor of ARSF) will be traveling to Uganda on Jan. 27 with two volunteers. Part of their work this time will be to organize a bed net distribution ceremony that includes local health officials. Then the volunteers will be doing malaria prevention training and visiting homes to make sure the nets are installed properly. They are also taking two additional computers and will be doing more computer training with the staff and students. If you would like information on any aspect of the African connection, please contact Dr. Waun 412-731-2834 mwaun2003@yahoo.com

Trafford Recreation Board Rummage Sale

Green Alert: Articles and needed and you are invited to the Trafford Recreation Board Rummage Sale on Feb. 28 at 9am at the Trafford Middle School. If you have items for pickup, call Nick at 412-372-1680.

Food Bank Donations

Though Stone Soup Sunday is over, ESUUC is still collecting food for the Westmoreland County Food Bank. Please leave your contribution in the wicker basket at the main sanctuary doors. Non-perishable foods, personal care items, cleaning products, and paper products are welcome – no glass containers, please!

ESUUC contributed \$126 and 26 bags of groceries to the Westmoreland County Food Bank on Stone Soup Sunday. Thanks to everyone who contributed cash, groceries, or effort! Special thanks to head cooks Mary Kukura-Straw and Melissa Alcorn-Ferry, who produced our delicious soups, and to the cast of the Stone Soup Sunday play: Dan Begg, Steven Begg, Marylyn Devlin, Drake Dunnett, Justice Dunnett, Sydney Dunnett, David Schwartz, and Chuckie Shiring. And thanks again to Mary Kukura-Straw, who delivered our donations to the Food Bank.

Sunday Refreshments

One of the most popular Unitarian traditions is the social hour after each service. At ESUUC, each adult member (or couple) takes a turn bringing refreshments. It works out, on average, to about one turn per person/couple per year. We also have Sharing Sundays, on which anyone who desires can bring in a goody or goodies to share.

To ensure fairness, we assign each adult member/couple a date on which to bring refreshments. These don't have to be homemade or fancy; store-bought treats work well, too. If you haven't brought refreshments before, or are unfamiliar with how things are set up, you may want to come in the weekend before your turn to see how it's done. There are also instructions in the kitchen on how to use the coffeemaker and hot water pot. If you are still confused, or need assistance, contact Brenda Shiring at brennyren@yahoo.com or 724-334-1507. If I'm at the service and you want a hand, just come and get me. The only thing I WON'T do is let you off the hook – we need your participation to keep this fun tradition alive (and everybody fed)!

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

Jan. 4	Coming of Age Class
Jan. 11	Chris Priano
Jan. 18	George Ratliff
Jan. 25	Tabitha Riggio

Feb. 1	Kathy Ruffing
Feb. 8	David Schwartz
Feb. 15	John Shea
Feb. 22	Brenda Shiring

Relay for Life Raffle

Congratulations to Dave Schwartz, who won the Green Goodie Basket raffle! Dave won an assortment of organic and natural treats in a basket made of recycled materials. The raffle raised \$72, which will go

toward the \$100 entrance fee of this year's ESUUC Relay for Life team. Thanks to everyone who participated!

OWL Sexuality Education Classes this Spring

We are pleased to announce that the Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality Education Series for grades 5 and 6 will be held this spring. Using a comprehensive approach, these programs help youth gain the knowledge, life principles and skills they need to make decisions about their sexuality in positive, life enhancing ways. Although this curriculum was developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ, the text is completely secular and free of specific religious doctrine or reference. The underlying values of the programs reflect the justice-oriented traditions of both denominations.

We think our students will have better discussions with slightly larger classes than are currently enrolled in the RE program. For this reason we are recruiting students from outside of our own congregation, from other UU churches and friends of congregation members, etc. If you know of any 5th and 6th graders who would benefit from the OWL program, and whose parents' views are likely to be consistent with UU principles and attitudes on sexuality, please let the parents know about these classes and encourage them to contact the instructors for additional information (or pass information on to us).

For grades 5 and 6 the parents should attend an introductory parent meeting at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, January 11th, to learn about the curriculum and to understand why sexuality education is critically important at this age. At the parent meeting we will schedule one mandatory orientation for students and parents and 8 weekly classes. Please contact our certified instructors Matt Mathis (mathis@psc.edu, 412--654--7529) or Susan Goodis (sgoodis@hotmail.com, 724--325--8048).

All meetings and classes will be at the East Suburban Unitarian Universalist Church on Sardis Road in Murrysville.

Parents, educators, and communities all face the challenge of creating environments that support and nurture positive sexual health. Young people need sexuality education programs that model and teach caring, compassion, respect, and justice. Thank you for supporting this holistic program, that moves beyond the intellect to address attitudes, values, and feelings that youth have about themselves and the world.

Congregational Committees

Committee – Chair (email)

Aesthetics – Jean Robl and Maureen Lilly	Membership – Marylyn Devlin
Building and Facilities – John Graham	Music – Alan Halperin
Caring & Concerns – Susan Goodis	Pastoral Care – Maria Luczkow
Committee on Ministry – Gayle Pamerleau	Religious Education – Kate Zingarelli
Community – Brenda Shiring	Signs and Symbols – Leona Dunnett
Drumming – Bill Dunham (drumming@esuuc.org)	Sunday Programs/Celebrations – Mary Kukura-Straw
Finance – Chris Priano	Welcoming Congregation – Matt Mathis
Landscaping – Laurie Montgomery	

Newsletter Deadlines

January 2008 newsletter deadline: **Sunday, January 18.**

Please email your articles to newsletter@esuuc.org or call Mary Warwick (724) 327-3092 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.

Calendar

Sunday, January 4

9:30am Choir Rehearsal for today's Service

10:30am Sunday Service

12:00pm Program Committee

Wednesday, January 7

1:00pm Wednesday Book Club

Sunday, January 11

10:30am Sunday Service

12:30pm Parent meeting for 5th and 6th grade OWL

Wednesday, January 14

7:30pm ESUUC BOARD MEETING

Saturday, January 17

9:00am ESUUC Retreat

Sunday, January 18

10:30am Sunday Service

11:00pm Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, January 21

1:00pm Current Events Group

Sunday, January 25

10:30am Sunday Service

Sunday, February 1

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal for today's Service

10:30am Sunday Service

12:00pm Program Committee

Wednesday, February 4

1:00pm Wednesday Book Club

Sunday, February 8

10:30am Sunday Service

Sunday, February 15

10:30am Sunday Service

Wednesday, February 18

1:00pm Current Events Group

Sunday, February 22

10:30am Sunday Service

Sunday, March 1

9:30am Choir Rehearsal for today's Service

10:30am Sunday Service

12:00pm Program Committee