

East Suburban Unitarian Universalist Church



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

Telephone
(724) 327-5872

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

Volume 45 No. 9

December 2008

Editor: Mary Warwick
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ESUUC Sunday Services

Sunday, November 30, 10:30am- "*Service Project*" -- We will be clipping coupons for military families to be able to use in their PX, which accepts coupons up to 3 months past their expiration dates. While doing so, Nick Freda will be leading us in a Common Bowl discussion. Bring any coupon flyers from the newspapers to donate and scissors for clipping.

Sunday, December 7, 10:30am- "*Miracles, Mysteries and Mindbenders*"-- What constitutes a miracle? Do you believe in them? It depends on your definition. There are people who have experienced things that others would consider to be true miracles: healings, etc. Sometimes the most ordinary things can be understood as miracles. **Dr. Waun** will present.

Sunday, December 14, 10:30 am – "*A Time to Be Born*"— The return of our annual Christmas play. This year the gifted actors of ESUUC will perform Brenda Shiring's original play "A Time to Be Born." Like the play, the service focuses on the role certain births play in various world religions.

Sunday, December 21, 10:30 am – "*Music Sunday*"-- The Choir will present a musical program of seasonal music.

Wednesday, December 24, 7:30 pm -- Our annual traditional story-centered Christmas Eve service will feature favorite carols, a book by Irish author Frank McCourt, recognizing the names of babies born since last Christmas and the singing of *Silent Night* with hand held candles. **Dr. Waun** will facilitate.

Sunday, December 28, 10:30 am – "*Who Stole My Please?*"- An insightful look into the "Tao" of the holiday shopping experience. Presented by Mike Pasipanki.

January 4, 10:30am- "*Who Are U and U?*"-- As a Unitarian Universalist, 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.



Pastor's Column: Holiday Thoughts...

by Rev. Renee Waun

Perhaps this is the year when all those lofty ideals about scaling back on the material aspects of the holidays will become a reality, whether we planned it that way or not. We are seeing such turmoil on the economic scene, with the recession, the massive bailouts, and the drop in consumer confidence. All this is taking its toll on our finances, and so it's the perfect time to actually practice the values we affirm, where love and simplicity and relationship are more important than all those long lists of gifts that need to be chosen, purchased, wrapped and offered. This could be the year when we finally find balance and meaning in our celebrations and come out feeling that we have reached a new level of integrity as we live out what we say we believe. Perhaps this is the year when we can try out all those ideas we have collected over the years of how to "be" more than "do"; of how to scurry less and relax more; of how to show love in ways other than buying more "things" to give away. My wish for all of us this season is to make new meaning by finding the simple joy of relationship and caring in ways we have not discovered before. After all, isn't experiencing joy and love the outcome we are all searching for anyway?

Happy Holidays to All!

News from the Treasurer

By Chris Priano

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

Liquid assets, 10/31/08: \$ 4,159.61

Increase (decrease) in liquid assets: (\$ 151.53)

Net inflows: (\$ 151.53)

Prepaid mortgage funds, 10/31/08: \$12,327.08

Mortgage principal balance, 10/31/08: \$ 32,068.26

(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.)

IRA Charitable Rollover Renewed Through 2009

Did you know that if you are age 70.5 or above, you can now make gifts to your congregation, the UUA, or other UU entities directly from your IRA – without including the IRA withdrawal in your taxable income? This timely provision will be in effect through December 31, 2009. To make a tax-free distribution, simply

send a letter to your IRA custodian requesting a transfer directly from your IRA to the organization of your choice. For more information, please visit the following web site:

<http://www.uua.org/giving/plannedgifts/120693.shtml>

Party On!

What better way to brighten the holiday than to share them with your friends from the congregation? Join us on Saturday, December 13 for our annual Holiday Party! The adults-only festivities kick off at 6 p.m. at the church. Please bring a pot-luck item to share for dinner, and a gag gift for some unsuspecting fellow ESUUCer. We'll supply the rest. See you there!

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 Bucaglia

Happy Birthday!

Kim Katilius
Bill Pamerleau
Zea Zingarelli

Happy Anniversary

Tom Cors & April Soule

As a Community, we share our positive energies to help those who are having difficult times...
Bernard Shaffer (Brenda Shiring's dad) for the recent hospitalization

Congratulations:

Julia Begg for her role in the play, “Porridge Gate”
Dave Schwartz on the release of yet another book

“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.

Religious Education

RE Class Calendar for December:

Elementary:

Dec. 7 Children's Chapel - Julia Begg
14 The Ten Commandments – Natalie Mendik
21 Wise King Solomon – Wendy Noe
28 NO RE CLASSES

Middle

- Dec. 7 Children's Chapel - Julia Begg
- 14 Moses in the Bulrushes – Gayle Pamerleau
- 21 Let My People Go - Marianne Jew
- 28 NO RE CLASSES

COA

- Dec. 7 Children's Chapel - Julia Begg
- 14 Islam – Dan
- 21 Islam – In the Name of God – from the Neighboring Faiths Curriculum – Mary Kukura-Straw
- 28 NO RE CLASSES

Holiday Scrip Fundraiser Update

Thank you for your holiday scrip gift card orders. They resulted in \$100 raised for the Coming of Age Program! If anyone is interested in ordering scrip gift cards in December, contact Marianne (scrip@esuuc.org). Giant Eagle and Panera cards will continue to be available on a cash-and-carry basis; see Marianne after service.

COA Bake Sale

Need a break from all of the hustle and bustle? Let the ESUUC Coming of Age youth give it to you. With a little help from (*not*) *Just Desserts*, the COA youth will be baking up a storm for the holidays! The children will be taking orders for cookies, muffins, pies and other holiday goodies until December 5th. Orders may be picked up following the Holiday Music Service on Sunday, Dec. 21st. Proceeds go to support the COA activities

Book Club Meeting

The December daytime book is *The Post American World* by Fareed Zakaria. We always meet at 1 pm at the Penn Ctr. Paneras on the first Wed. of the month. Paneras cards will be for sale from Marylyn Devlin

DownUnder Coffeehouse

On Dec 20 at 7:30pm, the DownUnder Coffeehouse will feature a night of international music with Ishtar. Ishtar plays folk songs from all over the Middle East and Mediterranean; songs that were popular in the bellydancing club scene during the mid-20th century. And, who knows what dancers might appear when the music gets hot on a cold winter's evening? The DownUnder Coffeehouse is open the third Saturday each month in basement of Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church, 416 West North Ave, North Side. Suggested donation for this month's show is \$5. Desserts, coffee and tea will be available. Call 412-322-4261 or see www.alleghenyuu.org/downunder for more details.

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.

| | |
|---------|-------------------|
| Dec. 7 | Mary Kukura-Straw |
| Dec. 14 | Mike Pasipanki |
| Dec. 21 | Sharing Sunday |
| Dec. 28 | Sharing Sunday |

| | |
|---------|----------------|
| Jan. 4 | Chris Priano |
| Jan. 11 | George Ratliff |
| Jan. 18 | Kathy Ruffing |
| Jan. 25 | David Schwartz |

Congregational Committees

Committee – Chair (email)

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

January 2008 newsletter deadline: **Sunday, December 21th.**

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, November 23

10:00am [Pickup Holiday Scrip Gift Cards](#)

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

Monday, November 24

7:00pm [Interfaith Thanksgiving Gathering](#)

Sunday, November 30

10:30am [Intergenerational Service Project](#)

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

Wednesday, December 3

1:00pm [Wednesday Book Club](#)

Saturday, December 6

10:00am [Adult RE: "Spiritualism"](#)

Sunday, December 7

9:30am [Choir Rehearsal for today's Service](#)

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

12:00pm [Program Committee](#)

Saturday, December 13

6:00pm [Holiday party - adults only - gag gifts](#)

Sunday, December 14

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

Wednesday, December 17

1:00pm [Current Events Group](#)

7:30pm [ESUUC Board Meeting](#)

Sunday, December 21

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

11:00pm [Newsletter Deadline](#)

Sunday, December 28

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

Sunday, January 4, 2009

9:30am [Choir Rehearsal for today's Service](#)

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

12:00pm [Program Committee](#)

Wednesday, January 7, 2009

1:00pm [Wednesday Book Club](#)

Sunday, January 11, 2009

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

Saturday, January 17, 2009

9:00am [ESUUC Retreat](#)