

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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Editor: Marianne Jew
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ESUUC Sunday Services

Sunday, January 2, 10:30am- *“Loveable Heretics, Part I”*- The word “heretic” in Greek means “choice”, so heretics are people who choose their own way, rather than the way prescribed by orthodoxy or the institution. **Dr. Waun** will begin a three-part series today with an historical introduction that includes the early founders of Unitarian Universalism who were persecuted and even killed for being heretics in the established church.

Sunday, January 9, 10:30am- *“War and Peace”*- **Mehernosh Khan and Marylyn Devlin** will be performing one of Mehernosh's poems of peace, plus other antiwar pieces. NOTE: Church members and friends are invited to bring similar pieces to read aloud and, of course, to share their thoughts and opinions.

Sunday, January 16, 10:30am- *“to ‘Be a Man’”*- **Len Caric** will talk about our image of masculinity and its role in promoting what many call the "culture of rape" in our society. Len is chairperson of the local chapter of Men Against Sexual Violence (MASV). Initiated by the PA Coalition Against Rape and Westmoreland County's Blackburn Center, MASV provides a forum for men and boys to examine what it takes to "be a man" and to join with women in ending sexual violence.

Sunday, January 23, 10:30am- *“Annual Pancake Breakfast”*- Each year male members of the church come together for a special bonding experience -- to prepare and serve breakfast for the church! If you would consider helping to prepare and serve this special meal, please plan to arrive around 9AM. Members and friends are invited to participate in the feast, starting around 10:30AM, which will be in lieu of the regular Sunday service that day. Your Sunday breakfast or brunch menu can include pancakes, coffee, orange juice and sausage. Come and enjoy!

Sunday, January 30, 10:30am- *“Opting Out of Suffering”*- We welcome **Rev. Carol Meyer**, Minister of the UU Church of the North Hills. Buddhism teaches that pain is part of life, but suffering is optional. What does this mean? What kind of suffering is unnecessary, and how might we liberate ourselves from such unnecessary suffering?

Sunday, February 6, 10:30am- *“Loveable Heretics, Part II”*- Not all heretics were theologians or preachers. Some were artists, writers or scientists who in ways that just happened to conflict with established church teaching. Join **Dr. Waun** as we will have a look at scientists who defied the church with their teachings, and what happened to them as a result. This is also the Sunday we will be unveiling and dedicating our new tapestry.



Pastor's Column: Out With the Old, In With the New

by Rev. Renee Waun

That's what a lot of people say at the coming of the next calendar year. When the New Year rolls over we tend to focus on the newness of what is coming as we move beyond the old ways of the past. This year I have been rethinking that saying, as I have had the opportunity to reconnect with some of my elderly friends.

My oldest living personal hero and role model for aging is a woman I met in S. Africa five years ago when she was 86. Now she is 91. She and her husband just moved to a new condo and she has been learning to use the Internet, so I received this lovely e-Christmas card from her. Inspired, I called her up and she chatted on and on about the book clubs she belongs to, the projects she is involved with and the classes she is taking.

Another friend is 94. Although his eyesight is failing, he is an orchestra leader and teacher of violin, guitar and piano. He and his wife have numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren, and when I spoke with him the other day, they were getting ready for their holiday trip to Connecticut, after which I am invited to come to their home for a discussion about books and gardening.

As I prepare for the New Year, I find myself deeply savoring the "old" that is in my life and what meaning, inspiration and joy the old has brought to me. Yes, I am prepared for the new as I eagerly anticipate it, but this year I am especially aware of the gift of the old, and the inevitable transience of it.

May each of us find that marvelous balance between the fondness for the old and the adventure of the new as we welcome 2005.



mUUsings from the President:

by Maureen McHugh

A New Year's Wish

We cannot achieve what we cannot envision. At the start of this New Year let us imagine what can be and let us work to make that vision a reality. Here is a word-quilt poem that we at ESUUC constructed in Sunday Service in January 2001. Participants submitted segments, and I sewed them together to make this "poem"

May there be hands to hold for those who are reaching; Let arms be for embracing;
May all who seek shelter find it; Let there be hearts that are always open;
May we live in community; May nations succeed in living together in peace;
May we treat each other with respect; May we celebrate our differences;
May humankind continue to seek answers to the earth's mysteries;
May we love one another and the earth unconditionally;
May a new consciousness of our connection to the Earth spread across her surface;

May we learn to know what is enough;

Imagine living in harmony with nature;
Imagine all manner of birds plentiful and flying freely throughout the land;
Imagine butterflies frolicking in meadow and farms;
Imagine all the people free to speak the truth;
Imagine all the children well fed and smiling too.

Enlighten the spirit; Breathe in hope; Let go of fear; Celebrate.

Fond Farewells

We are always sad when our members have to leave us and move away, but at the same time, we are glad that they have new opportunities and possibilities ahead of them. This month we say good-bye to two special families.

Andy Manhardt and Ginny Connelly-Manhardt are moving to North Carolina to begin the next chapter of their lives. They are long time members who have both been deeply involved in the life of the church with their leadership skills, hospitality and creative talents. We will miss them very much.

Jackie Passant's family is moving to Wisconsin due to a new job for her husband. Although Jackie and her two children Sonja and Adam were relatively new to us, she has been a loyal member of the choir and also regularly helped with the religious education program, in addition to enjoying Movie Nights with the children.

Good luck to these East Suburban friends as they follow their new pathways of life.

From the Manhardts

Ginny and I have enjoyed our 20+ years at ESUUC and have had many rewarding experiences there. You have been and are a wonderful group of people who we will really miss.

Our new address in Sanford, North Carolina is: 161 Charles Riddle Road
Sanford, NC 27330

Phone: 919-776-8142

Ginny e-mail - ginnymc@charter.net

Andy e-mail - andymanhardt@charter.net

We would like any and all of you to come down and visit. We have plenty of room and beds.

Goodbye for now,
Andy Manhardt and Ginny Connolly-Manhardt

Year-End Tax Reporting

Treasurer's Report, from Cathy Serventi

Even though the church finances, (and your pledges) run on a fiscal year, from June to July, as a courtesy I will be sending out two year-end statements for pledging members. You should have received the first statement in December, listing where you stood in your pledge payments for the year as of mid-December.

If you had a balance still outstanding at the end of last year (2003-04) it would really help me out if you let me know whether you are going to just let that balance go or whether you made the final payment after June 30. This statement is also a chance for you to make sure that my records and your own records of pledge payments match. After December 31, I'll send out a second statement with your payments for the calendar year (2004), that you can check against your own records for tax purposes.

According to my understanding of the IRS Publications for Churches, technically ESUUC is only required to provide verification of receipt for individual donations (pledge payments) over \$250. For any payments under \$250 a canceled check is usually sufficient if you are claiming the deduction on your tax return. However, I'm planning on sending out a verification for all pledging members even if none of your individual payments were over \$250.

Also, for other non-cash donations valued at under \$250, my understanding of the tax rules is that your own receipts or canceled checks are enough verification. The person making the donations is responsible for determining the reasonable value of the items, not the church, but I'm happy to provide you a receipt listing the items that you donated for your record keeping purposes.

If you don't receive the statements, please contact me and let me know; it's possible that we don't have a current address on file for you. As always check with your own tax preparer or other financial adviser to be sure these statements are applicable to your particular case.

Please contact me with any questions via email (treasurer@esuuc.org) or 724-387-1155.

Evolution vs. Creationism in Schools

Fellow members of ESUUC - while at the UU General Assembly in Long Beach, CA, this past summer, I attended a workshop on "Intelligent Design". The basic message was that fundamentalists advocating the teaching of Creationism in schools have shifted tactics, and are now calling their slightly altered message Intelligent Design. This movement has become very active across the country, and is evidenced in an October 18, 2004, decision by the Pennsylvania Dover Area School Board mandating the teaching of intelligent design and forbidding teaching on the origins of life. Wonderful resources and background information are available at <http://www.ncseweb.org/>. I felt compelled to write the following Letter to the Editor to support a local journalist helping to get this message out.

Letters to the editor: Wednesday, December 08, 2004

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Politicizing science

Cheers to Tony Norman for stating the obvious ("Creationism's Strange Evolution," Nov. 30), that "intelligent design" theories are simply new attempts to get fundamentalist Christian creation stories into our public schools.

National Center for Science Education Executive Director Eugenie C. Scott emphasizes that evolution is good science and not necessarily antithetical to religion. She also notes that by lobbying school boards to include creationism or weaken evolution in their science curricula, creationists are politicizing science education.

Our children will have to compete in the world marketplace, yet their performance in science and physics is declining. It is irresponsible to allow religious fundamentalists to add confusion to curriculums to evangelize their particular religion.

(Continued on following page)

Politicizing science (cont.)

Let's keep science in schools, and fundamentalist creation stories in religions.

GERARD KATILIUS

Murrysville

Drumming Circle

We will drum in the New Year on **Sunday, January 9th at 7:30pm**. Bring your drums, shakers, etc. We have a few extra drums in case you don't have one, but would like to join us. We drum for fun, community, and meditation. All are Welcome! (drumming@esuuc.org)

Annual Retreat: "Celebrating Community"

The annual church retreat is scheduled for **Saturday, January 15 from 9:15am to 3:00pm**. Please join us as we celebrate and conceptualize COMMUNITY. A Community might be defined as a group of people tied together by a specific locale, a common cultural heritage, or by common interests and purpose. Community may be conceptualized as a social system or network and may be characterized by the following elements: compassion, connection, harmony, kinship, teamwork, solidarity, cooperation, assistance, support, agreement, unity, and identity. What is your vision of a positive community?

A community perceives itself as distinct, and/or is perceived by others as distinguished in some respect. Several years ago ESUUC became part of a larger community when it purchased our church building. And since that time many new members have joined our congregation. We invite new and older members to come together, to converse, and to create a shared vision of our congregation as a community. How can our identity as a congregation be communicated to the larger community?

Communities are often united in a joint purpose. Fellowship is frequently experienced in the context of community service and action for social justice. How might we work in and with the larger community to provide service, and/or to be a beacon for social justice?

The United States has become polarized and divided through our recent elections. Divisiveness has occurred at every level down to individual households. While some may search out new communities, most of us realize we need to develop a sense of connection here where we live and work. How can we help to (re)build community among ourselves, and within the surrounding neighborhoods?

Please help us to address these questions by joining us at the Annual Retreat. A light lunch will be served. Limited childcare is available.

Childcare Registration for Annual Retreat

Limited childcare will be available for adults attending the Annual Retreat, "Celebrating Community", on January 15. A limited number of childcare slots will be available at the Church **from 9:00 to 12:00 noon ONLY**. A \$10.00 donation is requested per child to cover the expenses. Registration for childcare is necessary. Please submit the following information to Maureen McHugh (mcmchugh@IUP.edu, 724-733-3620) by January 6, 2005.

Name of child

Age of child

Special needs

Name of parent(s)

ESUUC Book Club

Join our discussion of “The Handmaid’s Tale” by Margaret Atwood on **Thursday, January 20 at 7:30 pm** at Panera Bread Company in the Monroeville Miracle Mile Shopping Center. Book club events are also posted on the ESUUC website: www.esuuc.org

RE (Religious Education) Mission Statement

In October, Karen Lapidus, our District RE consultant, came and led Gayle Pamerleau, Cathy Serventi, and Kathy Begg in a workshop to create a new Mission Statement for the RE program. The Mission Statement is located toward the end of the newsletter, just before the “RE Class Schedule” section.

On **Saturday, January 29 at 9am** we will have a follow-up meeting focused on how we will implement this statement in the RE program. Please join us for this important planning session.

Tapestry Unveiling Moved to February 6

New Date! Remember that old Heinz commercial where they had to coax the catsup out of the bottle? The whole idea was that anticipation heightens the eagerness and enjoyment of what we are waiting for. Well, we want everyone to be very eager as we await the unveiling of our new tapestry, so that the enjoyment will be that much grander.

We can’t rush these things, and so we are moving the previously announced date of the tapestry dedication to **Sunday, February 6**. This will give artist **Adrian Heinrich** the time she needs to do the topstitching and to properly install the two-panel work in the chancel area. After the service there will be a special reception for Adrian in the Community Room.

This tapestry project was privately funded by member contributions and was designed to be an artistic solution to the glass block cross that dominates the back wall of the sanctuary. The arms of the cross will be masked and the stem will be left open so that natural light may filter through translucent panels.

Winter Institute

The 5th Annual Winter Institute, which is a District-wide intergenerational event, will be held on the **weekend of February 18-21** at the Salt Fork State Conference Center in Cambridge, Ohio. It is a time of relaxation, with frosty activities for outdoor types, and a crackling fireplace for indoor folk. You can stay 1, 2 or 3 nights. Rooms are about \$100 per night and the Conference Fees (covers some meals) are \$90 (adult) and \$40 (ages 12 and under). For registration information, call Cheryl Napsha at 412-400-9162.

PIIN Banquet and Program Book Opportunities

The Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network is having its second Annual Banquet on **Saturday evening, February 26, 2005** at the Omni William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh, with keynote speaker Mr. C.T. Vivian, colleague and co-worker with Martin Luther King, Jr. in the sixties. He will address the issues of equity and justice that resonate with the mission of PIIN. Tickets will be available soon at a cost of \$45 each. We hope that several people from our congregation will attend this exciting event!

An important aspect of the banquet is the program book that includes opportunities for people to purchase advertisements and tributes on behalf of a person, family, business or organization.

Last year our church raised nearly \$1200 worth of ads and tributes for the book, and we are asking you to consider making a contribution to this important work this year. For as little as \$5 you can get your name

and tribute on the “Supporters” page of the book. Several of our members and friends donated much more than that.

Nancy Fitzgerald and Renee Waun will have a signup sheet available at church for donations to the “Supporters” page. The book is 8 ½ by 11, and space for advertisements is sold by full page (\$500), half page (\$300), quarter page (\$175) and eighth page (\$100) for camera ready art, or text to be type set. Let’s help to support this worthy cause!

Refreshments

(Also posted on the bulletin board in the kitchen)

Each Sunday immediately following service we gather in the community room for coffee, juice, a tasty treat and spirited conversation. It is an opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet some new friends at church. Each member of ESUUC is asked to take a turn throughout the year. When we all take a turn it is only once or twice that each of us is asked to help out in the year. 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. If this is your first time, please review it a couple of weeks before you take your turn to get an idea of the flow. Also, a copy is included at the end of this month’s newsletter. Feel free to tear it off and save it for reference. 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 from having to do it, however, we all seem to like to eat. If the week you are assigned doesn’t work with your schedule, please try to switch with someone else for that month.

We are trying something a little different in an attempt to clear away some of the congestion in and out of the kitchen entrance. The refreshment table has been moved to the far end of the community room. Please try to prepare the table before service starts. There is a cart in the kitchen under the sink that you can use to place food items on to be brought in after service ends.

Jan 2	Kate Codd-Palmer/Brien Palmer
Jan 9	Helen and Bill Kavalkovich
Jan 16	Glenn and Marcia Klepac
Jan 23	Pancake Breakfast
Jan 30	Mary Kukura-Straw

Feb 6	Jerry and Maureen Lilly
Feb 13	Jane Longdon
Feb 20	Maria and Tom Luczkow
Feb 27	Maureen McHugh

RE Mission Statement

Our new Religious Education Mission Statement, as of October 2004:

The purpose of our RE program is:

- To maintain a strong community, built on respect and patience, which is a safe place to express yourself and pursue your passion.
- To create a place where learners of all ages can come together with energy and enthusiasm to recognize wisdom in all its forms, to foster a sense of belonging in the UU tradition by creating a nurturing environment that encourages members to use our UU principles to become a positive force for serving the greater community and preserving our planet.
- To instill in our children a sense that they are cherished by our congregation as representing our future.

A young UU from our congregation:

- Enthusiastically seeks out knowledge and spiritual guidance from many sources in order to articulate

and stand by their own ethical and moral belief system grounded in our UU principles. They are self-confident and self-disciplined enough to critically evaluate and act within the world around them while remaining respectful of differing perspectives. They are a generous, openhearted, and socially responsible person who keeps a sense of humor even in the face of difficulty.

RE Class Schedule

Nursery:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
Jan 2	Mary Warwick
9	Maria Luczkow
16	Merritt Bailey
23	Pancake Breakfast – No Nursery Provider today
30	Cathy Serventi

Early School Age:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Class Description</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
Jan 2	Kids will attend first part of service. Differences are interesting (12)	Gayle Pamerleau
9	Both Girls and Boys Can (13)	Zea & Brendan
16	Black is Beautiful (14)	Kate Zingarelli
23	Pancake Breakfast – No RE Class today	
30	All Kinds of Families are for Caring and Sharing (18)	Gayle Pamerleau

Elementary:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Class Description</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
Jan 2	Kids will attend first part of service. Color from the Rainbow (RC6)	Kathy Ruffing
9	A Look at Stereotyping (RC7)	Marianne Jew
16	A Look at Prejudice (RC8)	Lew Ruffing
23	Pancake Breakfast – No RE Class today	
30	Harmony From Many Voices (RC 9)	Kathy Ruffing

Middle School:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Class Description</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
Jan 2	Kids will attend first part of service. Institutional Racism (RJ8)	Karen Katilius
9	The Game of Real Life (RJ9)	Ken Noble
16	Simulating Pluralism: Real Life Revisited (RJ10)	Laurie Montgomery
23	Pancake Breakfast – No RE Class today	
30	Defining Peace (IOH1)	Ken Noble

OWL (Our Whole Lives) Programs

OWL Program for 5th and 6th Graders

We are planning to have OWL training for 5th and 6th graders beginning in late Feb. or early March. Susan Goodis and Matt Mathis, our OWL trainers, will be hosting a meeting for parents who are or may be interested in having their children participate. The meeting will be held at the church on **Saturday, February 19 at 9:30 am**. This is an important meeting for parents. Susan and Matt will tell us about the program and will answer any questions you may have. This is also the meeting where we will decide when the OWL sessions will be held.

If you have any interest in having your children participate in this wonderful program our church sponsors, please plan to attend.

Youth Group

I so enjoy meeting with the youth. It always seems like we have little time and so much to say. The youth are in the midst of planning what they would like to do in the next coming year. With the new year approaching, it is a time for celebration. We are trying to work on empowering the youth and they all have their own ideas of what that means. They have stepped up to many tasks within our congregation. In December, they helped retrieve the Christmas trees and deliver them to the church. In January, the young men are helping the “older” (relatively speaking) men with the pancake breakfast. I am so proud of each of these youth, and am privileged to be a part of their lives.

Thank you parents for loaning them to us for it is truly a joy and you all should be so proud of the individuals that they are and will continue to become. --Leona Dunnett, Youth Advisor

Youth Group meetings (all are **Sunday evenings, from 6-8pm**): **January 2, 16, 30**

Congregational Committees

Committee – Chair (email)

Aesthetics – Jane Longdon Building and Facilities – Lew Ruffing Caring & Concerns – Maria Luczkow (caring@esuuc.org) Committee on Ministry – open Community – Kate Codd-Palmer Finance – Cathy Serventi Landscaping – Laurie Montgomery Membership – open	Music – Jean Robl Religious Education – Ken Noble Signs and Symbols – Leona Dunnett Social Enrichment – open Drumming – Karen Katilius (drumming@esuuc.org) Sunday Programs/Celebrations – Brian Ogle Welcoming Congregation – Matt Mathis
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Calendar

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

Sun. Jan 2	Choir Practice – 9:30 am at the church: #88 “Calm Soul of All Things”
Sun. Jan 2	Program Committee Meeting – 12 noon at the church
Sun. Jan 2	Youth Group – 6-8 pm at the church
Thurs. Jan 6	Board Meeting – 7:30 pm at the church
Sun. Jan 9	Drumming Circle – 7:30 pm at the church
Sat. Jan 15	ESUUC Annual Retreat
Sun. Jan 16	Aesthetics Committee Meeting – following coffee/social hour
Sun. Jan 16	Youth Group – 6-8 pm at the church
Thurs. Jan 20	Book Club – 7:30 pm at Panera Bread Co. (Monroeville): “The Handmaid’s Tale”
Sun. Jan 30	Youth Group – 6-8 pm at the church
Thurs. Feb 3	Board Meeting – 7:30 pm at the church
Sun. Feb 6	Choir Practice – 9:30 am at the church: #23 “Bring Many Names”

Newsletter Deadlines

The deadline for the February newsletter will be **January 16**. 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 or 724-387-1155. No attachments please.