

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, April 3, 10:30am- *“Loveable Heretics, Part III”* - In parts I and II we have looked at great men and women who have gone against the “Church” and popular culture in times past to be labeled heretics. Now we will look at the 19th century Bibles of Thomas Jefferson and Elizabeth Cady Stanton who did their own cut and paste versions for different reasons. Too recent to be burned at the stake, these two still deserve to be called loveable heretics.

Sunday, April 10, 10:30am- *“Success Without Victory”* - **Professor Jules Lobel** will be speaking on his book *“Success Without Victory.”* In this book, Professor Lobel looks at legal cases that were important, but lost in court, to question the preeminent focus in American life and law with winning or losing. He will argue that we have to look beyond winning and losing, as many other cultures do, if we are really seeking spiritual and personal meaning in life.

Sunday, April 17, 10:30am- *“Reinventing God”* - Many of the world's Christian theologians are writing about the changing nature of God, as science influences our perceptions of the world. The changes are affecting worship services at many Christian churches all over the world, and even in the United States. What role does Unitarian Universalism play in this changing relationship between God and humanity? **Rev. Kate R. Walker** will present this topic.

Sunday, April 24, 10:30am- *“Important UUs from the Past and Present”* - This special intergenerational service honors important UUs from the past and present. The **students in the RE classes** have worked very hard to put this program together and invite you to join us for this entertaining and informative event.

Sunday, May 1, 10:30am- *“May Day: From Play Day to Pay Day”* May 1 may be the date of the oldest holiday in the northern hemisphere, when Maia presided over festivities of fertility and mirth. Over the centuries, May Day became associated with honoring labor. **Dr. Waun** will reflect a bit on both, and also allow time for a traditional May Pole, weather permitting.



Pastor's Column

by Rev. Renee Waun

I realize that, as your pastor, I am privileged to have a column in our monthly newsletter. But I am also aware of how freeing it feels to know that, as your pastor, I do not, nor will I ever dictate policy or theological mandates to you. This awareness comes today as I watch some of the world's religious leaders making heavy handed pronouncements about such things as the value of suffering, or the right of a comatose person to live irregardless of the quality of that life, or why a gay person should not be allowed to marry or adopt children or be ordained.

The more I participate in ecclesiastical circles the more I find it preposterous that regional and national leaders of mainstream Christian denominations can claim to have the answers to the critical yet most personal issues. Even more do I find it absurd that politicians should be trying to legislate on these things. I am happy to encourage each of us to find our own truth in personal matters. I really like being part of a religious movement where we as individuals are seen as the ones who have ultimate responsibility for the choices in our own lives—not the clergy or the hierarchy of the church. I could never presume to know with surety the answers for the theological, moral or practical questions and struggles in another person's life - only my own life.

I find it a worthy exercise—from time to time—to renew my gratitude for a church that allows and encourages free thought and belief, for that is also the great gift that we provide to the community. We are indeed a beacon and a haven, as our mission statement declares. Thank goodness and glory be! And may we always have our doors open to those who are waiting to receive the marvelous gift that we are.



mUUsings from the President:

by Maureen McHugh

A Supportive Community

We have been celebrating community, and working to strengthen our community. Being part of the Community Supported Agriculture movement is another way in which we can increase our own sense of community and our ties with the broader community, while working for the larger common good. I have been a member of two different CSA co-operative farms, and I really appreciate the multiple ways in which CSA addresses the issues of quality of life and the interdependent web. In Community Supported Agriculture, a grassroots organization—typically, a neighborhood, cultural, or religious group—pays a farmer for his crops before they're even planted.

Community supported agriculture (CSA), a new idea in farming, has been gaining momentum since its introduction in the US in the mid-1980s. The number of CSAs operating in the US today stands at more than 1,000. As farming becomes more and more remote from the life of the average person, it becomes more difficult for farming to provide us with clean, healthy, life-giving food or a clean, healthy, life-giving environment. Consumers interested in safe food and farmers seeking stable markets join together in this economic partnership.

CSA consists of a community of individuals who pledge support to a farm operation so that the farmland becomes, either legally or spiritually, the community's farm, with the growers and consumers providing mutual support and sharing the risks and benefits of food production. Typically, members or "shareholders" of the farm or garden pledge in advance to cover the anticipated costs of the farm operation and farmer's salary. People pay a flat fee at the beginning of the planting season for a "share" of the farm's production. Each week during the harvest season, each member family gets a percentage of whatever's been harvested. Some CSA sponsors are galvanized by a desire to rescue small farms. By distributing produce to community members, who have provided the farmer with working capital in advance, growers receive better prices for their crops, gain some financial security, and are relieved of the burden of marketing. Many CSA members want to encourage the growth of organic produce; CSA farmers typically use organic or biodynamic farming methods, and strive to provide fresh, high-quality foods.

Members get fresh organic produce every week. The food is locally grown, fresh and seasonal, just the things that the Earth is serving up right then. The share changes from lettuce and greens in the Spring, to tomatoes and corn in the summer, and potatoes and squash in the Fall. It's also a great opportunity to eat some things we might not usually choose. Most importantly for me, it helps to connect us to the living world. We can learn to respect the difficulty of growing things, and to be more in tune with the rhythms of the Earth. CSA can also strengthen communities. I appreciate knowing the source of my food, and being able to introduce my family to the farmer. I can meet other families who share my values. The name the Japanese gave this system was *taikei*, which translates as "putting a face on food."

To find out more about community Supported Agriculture: <http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/csa/csadef.htm>

We are currently soliciting shareholders to participate with ESUUC in a CSA organic farm. The Kretschmann Farm provides Pittsburgh area customers with organically grown produce, fruits, and meats. The farmer will be coming later this month to give a brief presentation on CSAs and to answer your questions. More information and sign-up forms can be found at www.home.earthlin.net/~kmann2, or contact me. I hope we can all eat healthy this summer, and be in tune with Earth's bounty.

Opportunities for Personal Growth and Church Growth

How would you like an opportunity to support our church's growth, help develop our sense of community, and contribute to your own personal growth?

The Nominating Committee is currently seeking candidates for a number of ESUUC Board of Trustees positions. This year, four existing Board positions need to be filled. The positions that are to be filled are listed below, along with a summary of responsibilities. All are two-year positions. See the ESUUC By-Laws for a detailed discussion of responsibilities.

- Secretary (currently held by Leona Dunnett). Shall act as Secretary at all meetings of the Church & Board. Normal duties include taking of meeting minutes, publication of meeting calls & agendas, handling ESUUC correspondence, maintenance of membership & committee rosters & attendance at annual & special meetings.
- Treasurer (currently held by Cathy Serventi). Shall perform duties normally pertaining to office of Treasurer of a Church. Responsibilities include safekeeping of the funds of the Church, issuance of checks in payment of debts, and maintenance of accurate financial records.
- Religious Education Chair (currently held by Ken Noble). Shall act as liaison between the Board and the R.E. program and is responsible for seeing that the goals & objectives of the R.E. program are carried out in the best interests of the Congregation.

- Facilities Manager (currently held by Lew Ruffing). Shall coordinate committees responsible for maintenance, landscaping, aesthetics, signs & symbols, use policy, etc.

Elections are held at the ESUUC Annual Meeting in June. The elections are conducted by use of a secret ballot. If there is no objection, and only a single slate has been presented, the vote may be conducted by voice vote.

We are looking for good people to help us go forward into the future. We encourage you to stand for one of the available positions. (We may even nominate you ourselves!) You will find help and support from the current position-holder, the board, and the standing committee members.

This is a good opportunity to help the church community and yourself grow. To put in a nomination for yourself or for another person, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members below:

Brien Palmer	[email: brienp@adelphia.net	phone: (724) 325-3903] or
Kathy Ruffing	[email: ruffing@bellatlantic.net	phone: (724) 327-1291]

Pledge Forms due April 6

As part of the Annual Canvass, small group dinners were held in March, providing a forum for each member's views on how they see their Church satisfying the needs of the congregation. A sincere "Thank You!" to all those hosts who shared their homes, cooking talents, and hospitality!

Pledge forms are due April 6 – please turn in your forms so the Board can budget for 2005-2006.

Organic Farming Coming to Murrysville?!

Several of us from church have been working very hard to get delicious organic vegetables and fruits to Murrysville. Throughout the years many families from ESUUC have bought shares from organic farms in the surrounding areas and have loved it! The produce is grown locally without pesticides and harvested a day before delivery to your doorstep (well, *close* to your doorstep).

We are hoping to spread the bounty and philosophy of *local* organic produce to the residents in the eastern suburbs of Pittsburgh through a relationship with **Kretschmann Farm**. We are told that we will need 15-20 subscribers in order to be a host site. You can sign up yourself on line by using the farm web address, www.home.earthlink.net/~kmann2. Where it asks the question, "Willing to host?" fill in: "East Suburban Unitarian Universalist Church". You are also invited to meet the farmer, Don Kretschmann, at **ESUUC, Friday April 15th at 7pm** and sign up at that time. A deposit of \$50 is requested. If neither of those options work for you but you are still interested or have questions call Kate Codd-Palmer (724) 325-3903.

ESUUC "Adopts" Sardis Road for Earth Day '05

ESUUC has agreed to adopt a section of road through the **PA CleanWays Adoption Program**. We have committed twice a year to clean the section of Sardis Road from the intersection of Route 22 to the entrance to Heather Highlands at Heather Drive. This is roughly a one-mile stretch of road. Our first cleanup is scheduled for **Earth Day 2005, Saturday April 23, 2005 beginning at 8:30am at church**. We will begin with an orientation and then shuttle together to the stretch of road to be cleaned. All supplies will be made available although if you have an extra reflective vest feel free to bring it along. Volunteers must be 13 years old to participate. If the youth is not accompanied by a parent, they must submit a signed parental consent form before participating. Please see Kate Codd-Palmer for forms.

A simple lunch will be provided after cleanup to all hungry, tired and sweaty volunteers. If you are unable to cleanup but would like to help with the lunch please see or call Kate Codd-Palmer (724) 325-3903.

Thanks in advance for you enthusiasm and support!

Become a Puppeteer

The Funshine folk will be appearing once again on **Sunday, April 3 at 10:30am** during service. Michael is looking for puppeteers, voices and ideas to help out with the sketch. The topic will be centered around thinking outside the box or using unconventional thinking as a wonderful way to make progress in the world. Rehearsal begins at 9:30 am on the morning of the service and then at 10:00 am we move to the pulpit to rehearse. Please contact Michael via e-mail at actormas@verizon.net or via telephone at (412) 798-0545.

Family Drumming

Last month's drum building workshop, led by Jen Trout Osborne, was extremely well-attended: 23 drums were made! The beautiful and varied drums can be seen and heard at the next family drumming circle.

Family Community Drumming Circle - come one, come all on **Saturday, April 9 at 3:30pm** to play, chant (and maybe even dance!) together. No experience is required and everyone is welcome - and encouraged!!! Contact Jen Trout Osborne at 412-608-2725 or jenifer.trout@adelphia.net

Drumming Circle

The drumming circle will meet on **Sunday, April 17 at 7:30pm** in the sanctuary. Bring drums and shakers if you have them. Everyone is welcome, no experience needed. Any questions email Kathy Ruffing webmaster@esuuc.org, Karen Katilius karenlgerard@aol.com, or Jenifer Trout Osborne jenifer.trout@adelphia.net.

Earth Day Celebration

On **Saturday April 23**, St Vincent College will be holding its annual Earth Day festivities. There will be many free exhibits, displays and hands on activities provided by local environmental groups. This is a fun and interesting afternoon. The Begg family plans to attend, and plans to get there around noon. If anyone is interested in going, please let us know - we may be able to arrange car pools! nikitatude@earthlink.net

Book Club

The next meeting will be **Thursday, April 28 at 7:30pm** at the Miracle Mile Panera in the back room.

This month is non-fiction. Since our time frame is a little longer than usual, Glenn Klepac suggested a book that was a little longer too. (Although it still lends itself well to discussion even if you only had a chance to read part of it.) "A People's History of the United States : 1492-Present" by Howard Zinn, http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0060528370/qid=1111037270/sr=8-1/ref=sr_8_xs_ap_i1_xgl14/102-1354498-7400165?v=glance&s=books&n=507846

From Amazon.com (which has lots of used copies):

Consistently lauded for its lively, readable prose, this revised and updated edition of A People's History of the United States turns traditional textbook history on its head. Howard Zinn infuses the often-submerged voices of blacks, women, American Indians, war resisters, and poor laborers of all nationalities into this

thorough narrative that spans American history from Christopher Columbus's arrival to an afterword on the Clinton presidency.

Addressing his trademark reversals of perspective, Zinn--a teacher, historian, and social activist for more than 20 years--explains, "My point is not that we must, in telling history, accuse, judge, condemn Columbus in absentia. It is too late for that; it would be a useless scholarly exercise in morality. But the easy acceptance of atrocities as a deplorable but necessary price to pay for progress (Hiroshima and Vietnam, to save Western civilization; Kronstadt and Hungary, to save socialism; nuclear proliferation, to save us all)--that is still with us. One reason these atrocities are still with us is that we have learned to bury them in a mass of other facts, as radioactive wastes are buried in containers in the earth."

If your last experience of American history was brought to you by junior high school textbooks—or even if you're a specialist--get ready for the other side of stories you may not even have heard. With its vivid descriptions of rarely noted events, *A People's History of the United States* is required reading for anyone who wants to take a fresh look at the rich, rocky history of America.--This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Movie Night

Our next movie night will be **Friday, April 29, at 8:00pm** at the church, featuring "The Gods Must be Crazy" (109 minutes; rated PG). Join us for a wonderful evening of relaxation and camaraderie. As always, snacks and beverages are welcome.

Three separate story lines set in Africa eventually come together in this 1980 film by Jamie Uys. (The film wasn't released in the U.S., where it became a huge hit, until 1984.) Story one involves a bushman whose discovery of a Coke bottle causes consternation among his tribe, story two concerns an awkward romance between a clumsy scientist and a sweet schoolteacher, and the third plot involves a group of terrorists on the run. Slapstick, satire, romance, violence-- it's all here in a somewhat bumpy but entertaining movie.

Bike Ride Against Hunger

Rainbow Kitchen is hosting a "W.A.R. (walk and ride) Against Hunger!," a 15-mile bike ride, 5-mile walk and Health & Wellness Expo. All proceeds benefit Rainbow Kitchen.

Saturday, April 30 Check-in begins at **8:00 am**

Boston Park, Elizabeth Township, along the Yough River Trail.

Contact: rainbowkitchen1@aol.com <mailto:rainbowkitchen1@aol.com> or phone 412-464-1892.

The goal of this event is to raise money to support efforts to eliminate hunger in our region while raising awareness of the benefits of incorporating health and wellness into your daily routine. Registration is \$15; participants are eligible for giveaways and raffles with additional pledges.

Annually, Rainbow Kitchen provides 17,000 meals to our breakfast program participants, almost 79,000 Kids Café meals to children who are at risk of hunger, and 7,000 bags of groceries to families in need. We provide additional supportive services, including short-term and extended case management, information, advocacy, and referrals to approximately 1,500 individuals each year.

Unfortunately, we at ESUUC have no one to coordinate an effort to support this fine project this year. However we pass it on as a worthwhile event in the hope that some members may be able to participate.

Gay Prom

The Second Annual *Safe Prom for All* sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) will be held on **Sunday, May 29 from 6-10pm** at the Hilton Hotel in Pittsburgh. This is a safe event for high school students of all sexual orientations who may not feel comfortable going with a date to their own prom or showing some other side of themselves (such as cross dressing, for example).

Adults are also welcome, as chaperones and helpers—to be who they are as well. An overall attendance of 300 people is anticipated to enjoy dinner, dancing and door prizes in the beautiful ballroom. If you or someone you know would like to go, contact Rev. Waun 412-731-2834 or revmom@pitt.edu. Student tickets are \$10, adults \$25. Obviously the prom is highly subsidized. If you would like to purchase an ad in the program book or make a contribution to GLSEN for this occasion, contact Rev. Waun or check out www.glsenpgh.org.

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. 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. If you have any questions, please call Kate Codd-Palmer at 724-325-3903. If the week you are assigned doesn’t work with your schedule, please try to switch with someone else for that month.

Refreshments Roster

Apr 3	George Ratliff
Apr 10	Jean and Bob Robl
Apr 17	Kathy and Lew Ruffing
Apr 24	Michael and Tracy Safran

May 1	Cathy Serventi and Gene Wilson
May 8	April Soulé
May 15	Rosa Thompson
May 22	Dave Whaley
May 29	Kate and Mark Zingarelli

RE Registration for 2005-2006

Well, it is getting to be that time again! We are busy with our plans for next year, and would like to get this process going. By registering now you help us to plan our class sizes better and also help us with the Volunteer recruitment process for next year. The 2005 to 2006 Registration Form is attached to this newsletter. Please complete it and return it to us as soon as possible. You can e-mail it, mail it, give it to one of us, or leave it in the RE mailbox at church. We are asking for registration forms for Youth Group members also. This is also for planning purposes. Thank you in advance for your help!

Interesting Websites

www.braincake.org - this website is designed for Middle School girls, to promote interest in math and science. They even run a monthly contest where girls can win funding for science projects they are interested in. This is a fun and interesting site. Check it out.

www.famousus.com - the title says it all. So much information and good direction. Fun to explore. Enjoy!

RE Class Schedule

Nursery:	Day	Teacher
	Apr 3	Mary Warwick
	10	Merritt Bailey
	17	Maria Luczkow
	24	Cathy Serventi

Early School Age:	Day	Class Description	Teacher
	Apr 3	Kids will attend the first part of the service Remember What is Important to Us (34)	Gayle Pamerleau
	10	We Must Care for Trees (6)	Kate Zingarelli
	17	Preparation for Intergenerational Service	Kathy Begg
	24	RE Sponsored Intergenerational Service	

Elementary:	Day	Class Description	Teacher
	Apr 3	Kids will attend the first part of the service Practice for Intergenerational Service	Kathy Begg
	10	Caring and Uncaring for Others (IOH6)	Kathy Ruffing
	17	Practice for Intergenerational Service	Kathy Begg
	24	RE Sponsored Intergenerational Service	

Middle School:	Day	Class Description	Teacher
	Apr 3	Kids will attend the first part of the service Practice for Intergenerational Service	Kathy Begg
	10	Respecting Others, Valuing Diversity (IOH7)	Leona Dunnett
	17	Practice for Intergenerational Service	Kathy Begg
	24	RE Sponsored Intergenerational Service	

OWL (Our Whole Lives) Programs

PLEASE NOTE CHANGES TO OWL SCHEDULE (in bold):

April 2, Sat. - 9:30 AM
April 10, Sun. - 9:00 AM
April 16, Sat. - 9:30 AM
April 24, Sun. - 9:00 AM

Apr 30, Sat. – 9:30am
May 8 Sun. – 9:00 am
May 14 Sat. - 9:30 AM
May 22 Sun. 9:00 AM

Youth Group

Youth Group meetings (all are **Sunday evenings, from 6-8pm**): **April 10, 24**

Any questions, please contact Leona Dunnett, Youth Advisor (secretary@esuuc.org).

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

Sun. Apr 3	Choir Practice – 9:30 am at the church: #368 "Now Let Us Sing"
Sun. Apr 3	Program Committee Meeting – 12 noon at the church
Thurs. Apr 7	Board Meeting – 7:30 pm at the church
Sat. Apr 9	Family Drumming – 3:30 pm at the church
Sun. Apr 10	Youth Group – 6-8 pm at the church
Sun. Apr 17	Aesthetics Committee Meeting – following coffee/social hour
Sun. Apr 17	Drumming Circle – 7:30 pm at the church
Sun. Apr 24	Youth Group – 6-8 pm at the church
Thurs. Apr 28	Book Club – 7:30 pm at Panera Bread (Miracle Mile in Monroeville)
Fri. Apr 29	Movie Night “The Gods Must Be Crazy” – 8 pm at the church
Sun. May 1	Choir Practice – 9:30 am at the church: #77 "Seek Not Afar for Beauty"

Newsletter Deadlines

May newsletter deadline: **April 17**. 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 Leona at secretary@esuuc.org. No attachments please.

ESUUC
RE Program Registration
2005 - 2006 YEAR

Child's Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Grade on September 1: _____ Age on September 1: _____

Please note any allergies or other conditions here:

Parent(s) Name(s): _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Phone No: _____

I am interested in participating in the RE program:	Yes	No
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Would you be willing to be lead teacher for the section you teach?	Yes	No
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Would you be willing to lead one Children's Chapel during the year?	Yes	No
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My preference would be to teach the following section(s): (Please circle all that apply)

Nursery through 4 years	Pre-School/Early Elementary 5 years - 2 nd grade	Elementary 3 rd - 6 th grade	Middle School 7 th - 8 th grade
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Class assignments are based on grade on Sept 1 2004.

Do you or your child have any particular interests or concerns we should be aware of?

Any other comments? _____

Are you interested in having your 4th or 5th grader, or your Youth Group participant, attend OWL training this year? (This is not mandatory.)	Yes	No
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