

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 42 No. 3

October 2004

Editor: Marianne Jew
newsletter@esuuc.org

ESUUC Sunday Services

Sunday, October 3, 10:30AM – “*Priests, Pastors and Prophets*”

From the Parliament of the World's Religions come some insights about how religions are established and organized. Some rely more so on the priestly archetype, some more on the pastoral, and others on the prophetic. **Rev. Dr. Renee Waun** will share some of her most interesting experiences from the PWR in reflecting on this topic.

Sunday, October 10, 10:30AM – “*emma's revolution*”

We will celebrate Welcoming Sunday with a musical uprising of truth and hope from *emma's revolution*, the new duo of award-winning, activist musicians, **Pat Humphries & Sandy O.** Partners in life as well as music, their songs "Peace, Salaam, Shalom" and "Keep on Moving Forward" are sung at vigils and demonstrations around the world.

Sunday, October 17, 10:30AM – “*The Sonata*”

Composer/pianist **Brian Ogle, D.M.A.**, will perform original compositions and discuss the development of one of the most important classical musical forms, the Sonata.

Sunday, October 24, 10:30AM – “*The Electoral College and more*”

On November 2 we will be voting for two federal office holders. Why was the Electoral College created and how does it operate every four years? What topics are "hot" in either the House or Senate? **Tom Bailey** will lead a discussion about the Electoral College and legislative news gleaned from his high school classes and college classroom.

Sunday, October 31, 10:30AM – “*Days of the Dead Celebration or Los Dias de los Muertos*”

La Muerte or Lady Death is embraced by Mexican culture in a way that is often hard for foreigners to understand. And on November 1 (All Saints Day) and November 2 (All Souls Day) Mexico's tradition of honoring death and the dead is probably the most misunderstood fiesta of all. We think of Halloween, but Mexico's Day of the Dead holiday is a complex heritage of their people, blending ancient cultural beliefs with the Catholic Church. It is a time for families to honor their ancestors with elaborate home altars laden with harvest fruits, traditional breads with crossed bones on top and sugar skulls decorated in lively colors. Come and celebrate Mexico's most famous fiesta with us and decorate your own sugar skull! Led by **Mark Zingarelli and Mary Kukura-Straw.**

Sunday, November 7, 10:30AM – “Radical Neighbors”

Rev. Dr. Renee Waun will reflect on what it means to live in an interdependent community with people who are very different from us. This applies to so many categories of “difference” but perhaps most relevant in the political arena in the aftermath of a close election. It can feel “radical”.



Pastor's Column: Meaningful Time

by Rev. Renee Waun

It seems that the older I get, the more I want to use my time in meaningful ways. If I have an unstructured block of time ahead of me, I like to set my intentions for it to be good and productive and memorable. Some days I can use my time to make a real difference in the world, which is—for me—a very satisfying thing. Those are really good days.

There is an opportunity on Sunday afternoon, October 17 to have a good time and to really make a difference, and I invite you to join me. I plan to experience the energy of being in a room with 1000 or more like-minded people who will feel their power as they confront public officials to accomplish much needed changes in public policies. This is the Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network's Public Action Meeting.

PIIN chooses only immediate, concrete and winnable issues, so public officials know exactly what they are being asked to do. It's a lot like a basketball game where people cheer when points are made. There will be a gospel choir to pump up the crowd and interfaith, inter-racial leaders to tick through the agenda. (See related article.)

You will not be disappointed in this meeting.....it is one of the most meaningful things that I intend to do, and I hope you will come along to see what I am talking about!

See you in church!
Renee Waun



mUUsings from the President

by Maureen McHugh

Welcome to the 2004-2005 church year!

We opened the year with our tradition, The Water Communion, sharing our summer experiences and celebrating our community. And we returned to a building that was spruced up and painted in a communal effort this summer.

Community is what happens when people work together and share stories and ideas. . Community is the reason that many of us are members of ESUUC, according to last year's survey. And while we have always strived to provide an open and supportive congregation, this year we will focus on building, sustaining and

expanding community. Kate Codd-Palmer will chair a cluster of Community (sub)committees dedicated to both community enrichment and community outreach. Call her if you are interested. By making the Community Chair a Board position, we are acknowledging the importance of community as part of our mission.

This year we are planning to resurrect the women's and men's groups as another source of solidarity. And for the first time this year we will officially be a Welcoming Congregation, meaning that we have undergone a two year process designed to make us a (more) comfortable community for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons. Feeling part of a community is a valued human experience. But it is an experience that requires some effort and intention. This year we intend to create community, and we invite you to join ours.

Workshop: "Vision and Mission for Religious Education"

As our church and the Religious Education program have grown, we feel it is important to come together as a community to address our vision, our mission, and our hopes for our Religious Education program, much as we have done for the congregation as a whole. **Karen Lapidus**, our OMD RE Resource Person, who has helped us so many times in the past, has offered to help us in this process by facilitating a "Vision and Mission for Religious Education Workshop".

The workshop will be held at the church on **Saturday October 2, from 9:30am-1:30pm**. Anyone interested in helping to shape the goals and purpose of our RE program for years to come (at least a few), please come and join us for this important step. We want to have an RE program that is responsive to the needs of the congregation and is the very best that we can make it be; you can help that to happen.

If you do plan to attend, please let us know so that we can be sure to have enough materials and refreshments on hand. (e-mail to nikitatude@earthlink.net, phone to 412-373-4106, in person at the church, or leave us a note in the RE Directors mail slot at church)

Annual Gandhi Celebration

On **Sunday, October 3, from 3-4:30pm** at the **Interfaith Center of Carlow College** in Oakland there will be a celebration in honor of the birthday of Mohandas K. Gandhi. Several organizations will be planning and participating in this event, including a number of churches from the Monroeville Interfaith Ministerium. Rev. Waun is again on the planning committee. This year's speaker is the first Hindu to be appointed to the Commission on International Religious Freedom, former NY solicitor general **Preeta Bansal, esq.** She is described as being an advocate and role model of the spirit of Gandhi. An interfaith panel will respond to Bansal's talk before incorporating questions from the audience. As we think about the world situation today, Gandhi's teachings are especially important. We hope you agree and will attend this worthy event.

Candidate Forum

Some folks from our church have been working on a community-wide candidate forum for congressional candidates from the 18th district (Monroeville, Greensburg, Mt. Lebanon areas). The candidates are (incumbent) **Tim Murphy (R) and Mark Boles (D)** who will take part in a moderated forum on **Monday, Oct. 4, from 7-8:30pm** at the **Boyce Campus of CCAC**. Co-sponsors for this exciting event are our church, Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce, and Community College of Allegheny County, although church member George Ratliff is spearheading the planning.

Jon Delano from KDKA-TV has been invited to moderate the forum. The audience will have an opportunity to ask questions also. Please come to show your support for our church and for the democratic process as we find our relevance in the greater community!

Lunch Helpers Needed

On **Wednesday, Oct. 6** our church will host about 20 clergy leaders from the Monroeville Interfaith Ministerium (MIM) for lunch. We need 3-4 people who can prepare and serve this lunch for our guests. MIM meets every month at a different host congregation for a 10:30am business meeting followed by lunch at noon. This is the third year ESUUC has hosted the group, and they always look forward to the hospitality at our church because we have taken such care to make this a special event for them. And of course, it's fun to show off our building and gardens to other clergy.

Please contact Rev. Waun 412-731-2834 or revmom@pitt.edu right away if you are interested in helping. Perhaps you could provide a prepared dish but are not able to come to the church to help. That would also be greatly appreciated.

Movie Night

RE is sponsoring movie night on **Friday October 15 at 8pm** at the church. We had planned to show "Finding Nemo" for everyone, but in view of the upcoming election, have changed our schedule slightly. We will be showing "Finding Nemo" for the kids, but will also be showing "Fahrenheit 911" at the same time. If you have not seen this movie, this is a great opportunity to do so. Please plan to come. The church will be open by 7:30. No dinner is planned for this event, but snacks are welcome!

Down Under Coffeehouse

You are invited to attend the Down Under Coffeehouse on **Saturday, Oct 16th from 7:30-9:30pm** to hear an evening of songs from the American songbook, featuring the vocal styling of **Jennifer Wood** with the unbelievable jazz piano of **Tom Roberts**. A night not to be missed!

The Down Under Coffeehouse is held the third Saturday of every month in the basement of the **Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church**, 416 West North Ave, North Side. Suggested donation is \$5.00. Call 412-322-4261 or see www.alleghenyuu.org for more details.

Women's Spirituality Group

Women members of the congregation interested in exploring women's issues and/or women's spirituality in a group are invited to join us as we (re)create a women's group at ESUUC. Most UU congregations have a women's spirituality group, as we are one of the few denominations to take women and women's spirituality seriously. There are a number of Adult Religious Education curricula available on women's spirituality. In the past, ESUUC had a strong women's group. We will have a brief organizational meeting after Church on **Sunday October 17, from 12:15 to 1:00PM**. If you are interested in the group, but unable to join us then, please contact Maureen McHugh.

Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network

Public Action Meeting to Draw 1000+ Crowd

If you want to make a real difference with just 90 minutes of your time, plan to come with a group of ESUUC folks to the Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network's big Public Action Meeting on **Sunday, October 17, 4-5:30pm** at the **Wesley Center AME Zion Church** in the historic Hill district of Pittsburgh.

This is where 23 congregations from several different faiths groups rally together to get public officials to make policy changes in the community. This year's issues are around fair housing, parental governance in the public school system, immigrant rights and equitable land development.

The meeting is exciting because people have been working on these issues from the grassroots level, and the wins are specific, passionate and immediate. Public officials become the targets for getting the job done so that systemic change occurs. It really works! PIIN is the organization that gets the job done.

If you are looking for a meaningful way to spend a portion of your afternoon on October 17, please join us. We guarantee an electrifying time!

See Rev. Waun or Nancy Fitzgerald who are managing the signup sheets and car pool arrangements. Please be part of this powerful process. The more people are in the room, the more power we have to effectuate change!

Adult Religious Education: "Theocracy in America"

Dr. Waun will lead a discussion on the topic of "Theocracy in America" on (2) Wednesdays, **October 20 and 27, at 7:30pm** at the church.

Did you know that since the Reagan years, there has been an organized, highly funded movement from the White House right on down to the local school board elections, to effectuate a government that embodies the radical right Christian teachings and values? This is what would be called a "theocracy". We have seen evidence of this here and there, but writer/producer/lecturer Joan Bokaer has developed educational materials that show the progress of this insidious movement, calling on the public to be aware and to take action against it.

This 2-part series will feature two DVDs for discussion; one by Bokaer and one narrated by Burt Lancaster 20 years ago that has eerie overtones for its relevance today. Please join us!

Spirit and Nature: A Sense of Place

Reverence for the natural beauty that surrounds us elicits a response that transcends our spiritual roots and beliefs. Do these moments of wonder compel us to try to understand how nature and our own spirituality fit together? These topics and more will be explored at the day long conference on **Saturday October 26, 2004** at **Chatham College Campbell Memorial Chapel** sponsored by the Rachel Carson Institute at Chatham College, Venture Outdoors, Sierra Club-Allegheny Group. Music, dance, art, lecture, discussion and ritual, indoors and out, featuring Native American, Christian, Jewish Muslim and non-religious perspectives will be included.

More information is available at www.ventureoutdoors.org or call Venture Outdoors (412) 255-0564. Tickets range from \$30-\$55 depending on package and current place in life (i.e. Student or Senior).

Kids Halloween Costume Party

Saturday October 30, 2004 at the church

6:30-9pm 4-12 year olds

pizza, snacks, costume parade, games, crafts, bonfire

9pm-11:30pm YOUTH (13 and older)

pizza, snacks, bonfire, movie

Sign up in the Community Room. Cost: \$5 per child. Parents interested in helping either to plan the party or assist the night of the party, please call Kate Codd-Palmer at (724) 325-3903.

New Member Recognition

We will introduce and welcome our newest members at the November 7 service at 10:30 am. If you are interested in becoming a member at this time, or just want to explore the idea of membership, please contact Rev. Waun (412-731-2834, revmom@pitt.edu) or any of the members of the congregation!

Refreshments

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 (you know, one of those “church responsibilities”). 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. 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.

See you around the kitchen-----Kate

October 3	Leona and Tom Dunnett
October 10	Nancy Fitzgerald
October 17	Susan Goodis/Matt Mathis

October 24	Alan Halperin
October 31	Kate Codd-Palmer/Brien Palmer
Nov 7	Marianne Jew

RE Class Schedule

Nursery:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
Oct 3	TBD
10	Maria Luczkow
17	Merritt Bailey
24	TBD
31	Cathy Serventi

Early School Age:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Class Description</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
Oct 3	Kids will attend first part of service. Each of Us is Important and Special (1)	TBD
10	Here We Meet Friends (2)	Kate Zingarelli
17	Congregations are Places of Caring (3)	TBD
24	Old and Young Make Good Friends (4)	TBD
31	The Moon Belongs to Everyone (27)	Zea Zingarelli and Brendan Straw

Elementary:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Class Description</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
Oct 3	Kids will attend first part of service. Practice for Intergenerational service.	Kathy Begg
10	The Rights of Every Child (RC1)	Kathy Ruffing
17	What do You See? (RC2)	Marianne Jew
24	We are all Alike (RC3)	Marianne Jew

31 We Are all Different (RC4) Lew Ruffing

Middle School:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Class Description</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
Oct 3	Kids will attend first part of service. Practice for Intergenerational service.	Kathy Begg
10	Establishing a Covenant (RJ 1)	TBD
17	Sharing Our Heritages (RJ2)	Karen Katilius
24	Unlearning Stereotypes (RJ3)	TBD
31	Stories of Prejudice (RJ4)	TBD

Youth Group

Youth group meetings for October are scheduled for Oct 10 and Oct 24, both Sunday evenings, from 7-9PM. The starting time may change to 6PM – at the request of the Youth.

Environmental Happenings

You may have noticed a few changes around church in an attempt to be better stewards of the earth.

- 1). There is a recycling garbage pail in the community room—please use this for plastic, cans and bottles (please rinse first)
- 2). We are trying to use mugs for coffee instead of disposable cups. If you wish to use a mug they will be made available at coffee hour. When finished with your drink, please wash your mug in the basin in the kitchen sink and place in the dish drainer to dry. **DO NOT** leave for someone else to wash. If you are not up for washing your mug yet—continue to use paper cups.

If you have any other suggestions for being more earth friendly at church please see Kate Codd-Palmer or Nancy Fitzgerald.

Congregational Committees

Committee – Chair (email)

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

Newsletter Deadlines

The newsletter deadline for the November Newsletter will be October 17. Please email your articles to newsletter@esuuc.org or call me at (724) 325-1548 and leave a message with your news, stories, and other information.

A big “Thank You” to Andy Manhardt, our previous Editor, for all his help in getting me started with the newsletter. Thank you also to all of you who have responded to my emails and phone calls with patience and understanding as I get ramped up.

Marianne Jew, Editor

Calendar

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

Thursdays	Grief Support Series – 1:00 – to 2:30 PM through Oct. 28 – St. Bernadette’s Church
Sat. Oct 2	RE Workshop - 9:30 am – 1:30 pm at the church
Sun. Oct. 3	Choir Practice – 9:30 AM at the church
Sun. Oct. 3	Program Committee Meeting – 12 pm at the church
Sun. Oct. 3	Council on Committees – 12:15 at the church
Sun. Oct. 3	Gandhi Day Celebration 3-4:30 PM at Carlow College
Wed. Oct 6	Drumming Workshop 6-7:30 PM Allegheny UU Church
Thurs. Oct. 7	Board of Trustees meeting – 7:15 PM at the church
Sat./Sun. Oct. 9-10	UU Birding and B&B Weekend – Martha’s Vineyard
Sat. Oct 15	Movie Night – 8 pm at the church
Sat. Oct 23	Arts and Crafts Show – - Cancelled
Sat. Oct 30	Halloween Party
Sun. Oct. 31	Council on Committees – 12:15 at the church