

# 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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Volume 43 No. 8

March 2006

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## *ESUUC Sunday Services*

**Sunday, March 5, 10:30 am** – “*Our Endangered Values*”- **Dr. Waun** will explore current global controversies such as Danish cartoons, liberty vs. democracy and the Great Firewall of China in the context of Jimmy Carter’s book, UU moral values and our Seven Principles.

**Sunday, March 12, 10:30 am** – “*TBD*” – Program description not available at time of printing.

**Sunday, March 19, 10:30 am** – “**History of the Bible I**--Led by Biblical Scholar **Sue Lau**, a favorite speaker at ESUUC, we will look at the formation of the Old Testament canon, and then examine the care with which Jewish scribes transmitted the text in Hebrew, and the legends (and known facts) which accompany the translation of the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek. Moving into the New Testament period, we find early Christian writings produced, gradually collected, and eventually sorted into categories which separated those works which were "scriptural" from what was not considered to be so.

**Sunday, March 26, 10:30 am** – “**History of the Bible II**--**Sue Lau**--The second in a two-part series about the history and development of the Bible. Attention will now focus on the revolution wrought by the printing press on the process of biblical translation and transmission. Translation proved to be a risky--even life-threatening--business, but slowly it became accepted, and the printing press made possible the wide dissemination of the biblical text--complete with bloopers!

**Sunday, April 2, 10:30 am** – “*That Was Easy!*”- Wouldn’t it be nice if we had an “Easy Button” when it came to accomplishing all our dreams and objectives here at East Suburban Church? Well, **Dr. Waun** will present perhaps the next “easi-est” thing, which is to approach our future via “Appreciative Inquiry”, a way of reviewing and setting goals as a church community.

Today we will hear the tender anthem “*Alleluia Canon*” - a Mozart melody sung in loving memory of **Milan Mendik**, using music presented to the choir by Natalie DeFee Mendik.



## *Pastor's Column:*

*by Rev. Renee Waun*

## *Seizing the Day*

I was amazed and impressed—but not surprised—that the very next day after the Steelers won Super Bowl XL, stores were already selling racks of authorized sweatshirts, T-shirts, caps, poster, flags, Terrible Towels, mugs and other Steelers paraphernalia. Timing is everything. The promoters knew these items would be selling like hotcakes on the day of the Welcome Home Parade and beyond, and so production and shipment began immediately so as not to lose the momentum—or the big profits. Others were taking the opportunity to sell cotton candy, hand made hats, etc. etc. Carpe Diem!

Here at East Suburban church we have an opportunity to seize the day and profit from timely goods and services that will be offered at our upcoming Service Auction on March 25. (See related article.)

Right here in our own congregation we have talented folks who can produce art, gourmet foods, music or crafting lessons, consulting, vacation accommodations, clothing and accessories, framing, child care coverage—the list goes on and on. I know I would be willing to pay for someone to show me how to knit or play the guitar. My car needs to be detailed. A silk-screened picture I got for Christmas needs to be framed. Hint hint hint.....

What do you need that someone in our community has to offer? And more, what can you offer that someone else might need or want?

Seize the day and participate in our Service Auction. It's not only a terrific fundraiser, it's also a wonderful FUN raiser and community builder. Let's all find ways to jump in and make the most out of this great opportunity!



## *mUUsings from the President:*

*by Maureen McHugh*

## *New Workshops and Projects*

*“That I might search all books and from their chart, find my soul’s calm.” St. Columba*

The winter months for me are often a time to undertake reading, writing and scholarly work. Seeds already planted in the Fall can gestate and grow. This is also a time for attending plays, poetry readings and engaging in more creative activity. These activities can provide the fertilizer for the new ideas being gestated. To this end, ESUUC will be offering two series over the next few months, a creative workshop series, and one or more adult RE sessions offered in the evening. The first two of the workshops, on beading, have already been announced and they are featured later in this newsletter. In addition if you have any ideas, suggestions or contacts for one of the following workshops, please contact me: drumming, chanting, universal dances of peace, meditation approaches.

We already have several reading/thinking/discussion projects underway. There are ongoing book discussion groups, including a series of Sunday afternoon discussions on *The Left Hand of God*. According to Caitlin Matthews, *“If we look along our shelves there are certain books with which we would never wish*

*to part, dear to us because they provide us with soul-food.”* Which book comes nearest to your soul’s chart? If you are interested in a series based on your choice, or you have suggestions for other adult RE sessions, please let me know. At the retreat we identified some topics that might be covered in one session adult RE and some that would require a series. One exciting idea I am working to facilitate is ***Raising Sons***. I look forward to creating and thinking with you over the next few months.

The month of March will also see the return of the ESUUC Service Auction. Be sure to put in your services to be auctioned off, and plan to visit with us during the Annual Service Auction dinner at the end of March. See you in church!

### *Directory Updates*

Jerry Lilly has compiled additions, changes and corrections to the 2005 Directory. Please pick up your copy of the single sheet, available in the church lobby, and add it to your 2005 Directory.

### *Service Auction*

We are planning a wild and crazy Service Auction for **Saturday, March 25**. Dinner will be at **6:30 pm** and the auction will start at **7:30 pm** with Dan Begg and Tom Dunnett as our honored auctioneers. We will have both a service auction and a silent auction for items handmade by members of the congregation. You don't have to attend dinner to attend the auction. You're encouraged to bring family and friends along.

Tickets for the Auction: \$3

Tickets for the Auction with Dinner& Wine: \$7 per person / \$15 per family.

Children are welcome at the dinner but there will be childcare for the auction portion of the program.

We're going to start selling tickets after church on March 5 through March 19. You can also order tickets by email (treasurer@esuuc.org) or by phone (724-387-1155). When you purchase a ticket you will be assigned a number that will be used to keep track of your purchases.

Starting on Sunday, March 12 we will also have an auction booklet available with a description of everything for sale.

We will be accepting donations for services through March 5 and for items through the day of the auction. If you would like to make a donation please return the Donation form (located at the end of the newsletter) to the basket at church. You can also email all your information to Cathy Serventi at treasurer@esuuc.org. Use your imagination! Services might be a movie night and dinner for 6 people, 2 hours of computer lessons, or 5 pairs of pants hemmed.

If you have any questions or if you would like to assist with dinner you can talk to Cathy Serventi (treasurer@esuuc.org, 724-387-1155), Merritt Bailey, or Kate Codd-Palmer.



### *Interfaith Book Study*

Please join us for an interfaith book study as we prepare to welcome

Rabbi Michael Lerner to Western Pennsylvania.

Continuing in **March, Sundays at 1:30 pm**

## East Suburban Unitarian Universalist Church

**About the book and the author:** The Religious Right has gained power by speaking to the real spiritual hunger of many Americans, but then channeled that hunger into political forms that support war and militarism, cuts to programs for the poor and tax breaks for the rich, and environmental irresponsibility. Michael Lerner presents a progressive Spiritual Covenant for America that powerfully critiques both the Right and the spiritual and religious hostility in some parts of liberal and progressive cultures, and calls for a New Bottom Line to offset the globalization of selfishness and materialism generated by corporate capital. Lerner is constructing a Network of Spiritual Progressives -- not only for liberals in the religious world, but also for many secular people who are "spiritual but not religious" -- and is organizing a national campaign to "Say No to the Religious Right" and to the war in Iraq.

For more information or directions please call or email Wanda Guthrie, 724.327.2767 or Theresa Mason 412.856.5005 (wanda.guthrie@gmail.com or tirzam2@cs.com).

Michael Lerner will be speaking in Pittsburgh on Monday evening, **March 27**, at the Jewish Community Center at Murray and Forbes Avenues, Squirrel Hill.

### *Fundraising Policies*

The Board has been fielding a lot of requests lately to sell items before or after church that aren't directly related to church activities. In order to reduce confusion and be consistent, the Board, with the advice of the Finance Committee, drafted the following fundraising policy effective immediately. If you have any questions about this policy, please feel free to speak to any member of the Board or email treasurer@esuuc.org. Thanks for helping us to maintain a sense of respectful community at the church.

#### Non-Church Related Fundraising Guidelines

1. The fundraising activity should be for a non-profit organization and for purposes that are consistent with UU Principles. Any questions of appropriateness will be decided by the Board.
2. Fundraising for school activities / sports team is appropriate as long as the child is the person conducting the fundraising.
3. Items being sold for fundraising should not compete directly with ESUUC fundraisers.
4. A brief one-time announcement during the announcements portion of the Sunday service, an email announcement, and a flyer posted in the church are appropriate advertisements. Multiple announcements over several weeks are not.
5. People wishing to conduct a fundraiser should check with the person managing the church calendar (currently the Board Secretary) to see if there are any conflicting activities.

Fundraisers that meet these guidelines do not require additional approval beyond checking about the church calendar. Requests for exceptions to these guidelines should be directed to the Board.

### *Membership Committee*

The new chairperson for our membership committee is Marylyn Devlin as of 2/16/06. The goal for the year is to make ESUUC more well-known in the east suburban area through advertising. Thanks to Twila and Gerard Katilius for already working on this goal in Murrysville with the Penn Franklin newspaper and

thanks to Chris Priano for his work to get us financial information. We have a great team including Jerry Lilly, Jennifer Trout Osborne, Jane Longdon, and Rene Waun. If you are interested, join us. Our meetings are at 7 pm at the church on the third Thursday of specified months. (We like to keep our meetings short!)

### *Feel Like Singing?*

Join the choir and enjoy singing with other like-minded members and friends. We practice and sing on the **first Sunday** of every month – meet at **9:30 am** at the church. See Dr. Waun for more information.

### *Help with Chalice Lighter's Grant*

The Ohio-Meadville district has put a call out for a Chalice Lighter's Grant for the UU Church of Kent, OH. When we bought our church building, we received a Chalice Lighter's Grant that allowed us to purchase our beautiful sign. It's a worthwhile program dedicated to helping UU congregations grow. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, this website has more information: <http://omd.uua.org/steward/chalight.html>. There will also be information at the front information table at church.

### *Book Club*

For the March book club meeting, we will be reading “The Battle of Turkeyfoot Ridge”, a novel authored by ESUUC member David Schwartz. Email [bookclub@esuuc.org](mailto:bookclub@esuuc.org) for more information.

### *Academic Tutoring; German Conversation and Culture*

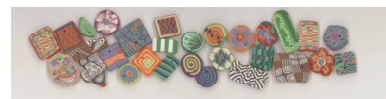
If you are interested in German language tutoring, conversation, and/or learning more about German culture, contact Marianne Gamble at 724-335-0572. Marianne can also provide academic tutoring for grades K-12 (biology, physics, German, English, etc).

### *Musical Tributes: in Honor or Memory of*

If you would like the choir to sing an anthem in honor or memory of a loved one, you are invited to contribute the cost of one set of anthem sheet music (\$20). On the Sunday your anthem is sung, a tribute will be printed in the bulletin as well as in the newsletter. This is a meaningful way to honor those we love as well as to enhance our worship services and to supplement our music budget as well.

Contributions for anthems may be given to our Treasurer Cathy Serventi with a note for “Choir Anthem”. Please also identify the tribute (in honor/memory of \_\_\_\_\_ given by \_\_\_\_\_), and Rev. Waun will be in touch with you about the date it will be sung by the choir. Thank you!

### *Beading Workshops*



ESUUC Spring Workshop Series Presents two workshops by local artist, Darlene Richardson

*Darlene Richardson is a local artist who creates fantastic colorful jewelry and pieces using polymer clay. She has presented workshops in Pennsylvania and Hawaii and has sold her items across the country.*

#### *A Baker's Dozen: Creating 13 styles of beads*

A full-day workshop

**SATURDAY, February 25, 10:00 to 5:00**

Darlene will present styles and techniques of polymer clay useful for making beads or other items. These styles include canes, surface textures, paints, rubber stamps, interference powders, and others. Participants will create their own beads (or other items) and learn techniques that can be used to produce beautiful wearable art. A light lunch and snacks will be provided.

**Materials provided:** polymer clay, oven, pasta machine, paints, tools. (Additional supplies are available for purchase) Do not purchase any equipment for this workshop—look around your house for knitting needles, straight-sided glass jars, metal lids, any type of thin blade (such as single-sided razor blades). We will share equipment.

**Cost: \$40.00**

### *What Now? Many Ways of Using Your Beads*

A half-day workshop

**SATURDAY, March 4, 12:00-4:00**

Darlene will instruct and assist us in many ways of using your handmade beads, including the production of necklaces, bracelets, pins, and barrettes. Bring your beads, handmade and/or carefully selected at a bead store, with you.

**Materials provided:** Findings, wire, tools, glue, and some glass filler beads

**Cost: \$25.00**

Both workshops will be held at the church in the community room. ESUUC is located at 4326 Sardis Road, Murrysville, PA 15668. Directions given at [www.ESUUC.org](http://www.ESUUC.org)

To register, contact Maureen McHugh [mcmchugh@IUP.edu](mailto:mcmchugh@IUP.edu) or 724-733-3620.

## *Junior High Con*

The Junior High Conference will be held on **Saturday, March 4** from **9:30 am-3 pm** at **First Church in Pittsburgh**. The theme will be “Social Justice”. The Con is open to Jr. High students – or 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders, and is specifically aimed at those who have never attended a Con before. (If you have attended one before, we would definitely encourage you to come as well!) Kate Begg plans to attend and can take 6 people with her, so let her know ([Redirector@esuuc.org](mailto:Redirector@esuuc.org)) if you need a ride. We can meet somewhere in Murrysville and go together.

## *District Men's Retreat*

The District Men's Retreat will be held **March 10-12**. This 16<sup>th</sup> annual event is open to all UU men of the district and will feature the leadership of **The Rev. David McFarland** of the Allegheny UUC on the topic of “*Mind-Body Connection*”, exploring the possibilities of how our minds and bodies work together. The retreat is held at a beautiful country estate called Sandscrest near Wheeling, WV and will also include ample opportunities for recreation and fun. The cost is \$170, which includes 6 gourmet meals and top-notch lodging. For registration and more information, call **Bill Kroesser**, 304-744-3114.

## *Teen (and pre-Teen) Book Club*

Our next meeting will be on **Saturday, March 11** at **1:00 pm**. It will be held at the Panera's in Murrysville. We are reading "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" by C.S. Lewis. New members are welcome. Hope to see you there! Contact [REdirector@esuuc.org](mailto:REdirector@esuuc.org) for more information.

## *Family Drumming Circle*

**Saturday, March 18 at 4:00 pm** - Come one, come all and join in the FUN! Drum along with other people of ALL ages and ability levels. Bring your drums or use ours - we have plenty to share. Snack foods are welcome, too. Your kids will LOVE it and you will, too!

## *Aesthetics Committee Meeting*

**Sunday, March 19, immediately after church**, we will have an Aesthetics Committee Meeting to prepare a budget request for our committee, which is responsible for the Sanctuary. In the past, we have chosen the color scheme, purchased the chairs, commissioned our wonderful tapestry, and installed new Pella windows. We are considering a banner that can be hung here and carried to General Assembly and a picture-hanging system that will provide flexibility for hanging temporary and permanent artwork. New people are encouraged to join us on March 19. For more information, contact Jean Robl and Maureen Lilly, co-chairmen.

## *Drumming Circle*

**Sunday, March 19 at 7:30 pm** – Drum, chant, meditate and groove with new and old friends as we relax and rejuvenate in the power of creating music together. No experience necessary and no skill required. Bring your drums or use ours. Why not give it a try? If you just can't get enough drumming, check out the drumming events at [www.thegreenbough.com](http://www.thegreenbough.com).

## *Wheel of the Year: Ostara/Vernal Equinox*

Come join us on **March 23 at 7 pm** as we celebrate the turning of the Wheel of the Year with Ostara/Vernal Equinox. This is a special springtime event when rebirth occurs. As Spring reaches its midpoint, night and day stand in perfect balance, with light on the increase. The young Sun God now celebrates a hierogamy (sacred marriage) with the young Maiden Goddess, who conceives. In nine months, she will again become the Great Mother. It is a time of great fertility, new growth, and newborn animals. The next full moon (a time of increased births) is called the Ostara and is sacred to Eostre, the Saxon Lunar Goddess of fertility (from whence we get the word estrogen), whose two symbols were the egg and the rabbit. Bring a drum if you have one. If you have any questions, please contact Leona Dunnett at [secretary@esuuc.org](mailto:secretary@esuuc.org) or 724-327-3841.

## *Movie Night*

We will have our next movie night on **Friday, March 24**. Doors open at **7:30 pm** and the movie starts at **8:00 pm**. The movie will be "White Man's Burden".

The story takes place in alternative America where the blacks are members of social elite, and whites are inhabitants of inner city ghettos. Louis Pinnock is a white worker in a chocolate factory, loving husband and father of two children. While delivering a package for black CEO Thaddeus Thomas, he is mistaken for a voyeur and, as a result, loses his job, gets beaten by black cops and his family gets evicted from their home. Desperate, Pinnock takes a gun and kidnaps Thomas, demanding justice. This movie is rated R and has a run time of 89 minutes.

As usual, please feel free to bring snacks and/or beverage to share. Kids are welcome to bring sleeping bags and pillows. Hope to see you there!

## *Theatre Field Trips*

As a follow-up to the 2/19 service, Marylyn Devlin is open to theatre field trips. She is definitely going to see the Pittsburgh Public Theatre's production of August Wilson's "Gem of the Ocean" running from May 25-June 25. She'll be going in **June**.

Kuntu Theatre presents "Seven Guitars" by August Wilson from May 18-June 3. Location is across from the University of Pittsburgh.

Please contact her if you are interested in these or any other local performances.

## *Tour Alaska with UUs - Discount*

Five Alaskan UU fellowships are offering a \$100 discount for reservations postmarked between February 20 and March 20 for summer 2006 UU eco-cultural programs. Limited space left. Programs include UU homestays and parties in Anchorage, Seward, Fairbanks, Juneau and Sitka, visits with with Tlingit, Inupiat and other Native Alaskans as well as wildlife tours to see whales, sea otters, sea lions, bears, moose, caribou, wolves, puffins and eagles and visit National Parks. Rev. Dick & Mary Weston-Jones, leaders. Details at [www.wuurld.org](http://www.wuurld.org), E-mail [dick@wuurld.org](mailto:dick@wuurld.org), or phone 1-888, 998-8753 toll-free for a brochure.

## *Sunday Refreshments*

A time-honored tradition among Unitarian Churches is to gather for "social hour" immediately following Sunday service. At ESUUC we gather in the community room for coffee, juice, something tasty to eat and spirited conversation. It is a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet some new friends at church. Each member is asked to take a turn throughout the year providing, serving and cleaning up refreshments. With everyone taking a turn it is usually once a year that we are called upon. The schedule tends to go alphabetically so you can get a rough idea when your name may come up.

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 and at the end of the September 2005 newsletter. If this is your first time you may want to 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, however, we all seem to like to eat.

The refreshment table is located in the far corner of the community room. This area also serves as a religious education room for the children during service. You may consider preparing the table before service starts, so the children are not interrupted during class time. There is also a cart in the kitchen that can be used to place food items on and be wheeled into the community room after service.

## *Refreshments Roster*

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

Mar 5	Jane Longdon
Mar 12	Maria and Tom Luczkow
Mar 19	Laurie Montgomery
Mar 26	Maureen McHugh

Apr 2	Ken and Andrea Noble
Apr 9	Jim Osborne/Jen Trout-Osborne
Apr 16	Sharing Sunday
Apr 23	Gayle Pamerleau
Apr 30	Kate Codd-Palmer/Brien Palmer



## *RE Class Schedule*

<b>Nursery:</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Teacher</b>
	Mar 5	Mary Warwick
	12	Maria Luczkow
	19	???
	26	Cathy Serventi

<b>Lower Elementary:</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Class Description</b>	<b>Teacher</b>
	Mar 5	Kids Attend First Part of Service, followed by Children's Chapel	Kate Codd-Palmer
	12	Partners with Nature	Mary Kukura-Straw
	19	Local UUs	Gayle Pamerleau
	26	Service Project	Kate Begg -could use helpers ...

<b>Upper Elementary:</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Class Description</b>	<b>Teacher</b>
	Mar 5	Kids Attend First Part of Service, followed by Children's Chapel	Kate Codd-Palmer
	12	The Very Short Rule	Ken Noble
	19	The Good Samaritan	Karen Katilius
	26	Service Project	Kate Begg -could use helpers ...

<b>Middle School:</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Class Description</b>	<b>Teacher</b>
	Mar 5	Kids Attend First Part of Service, followed by Children's Chapel	Kate Codd-Palmer
	12	Problem Solving	Kate Codd- Palmer
	19	Purpose	Laurie Montgomery
	26	Service Project	Kate Begg -could use helpers ...

## *Youth Group*

Youth Group meetings (all are **Sunday evenings**, from **6-8pm**): **March 12, 26.**

Dates and times are subject to change, so please check for updates: contact Leona Dunnett, Youth Advisor ([secretary@esuuc.org](mailto:secretary@esuuc.org)).

## *Barter Board*

If you have items to trade/sell, or have needs, you can post to the Barter Board.

The Board is located in the RE hallway on the Community Bulletin Board. To use, fill out a card (available on the Barter Board itself) describing your item or need, then pin it up in the appropriate column of the Barter Board.

Want your item listed in the weekly newsletter? Fill out an extra copy of the card and give it to Leona Dunnett, put it in the Secretary's mailbox, or e-mail the info to Leona at [secretary@esuuc.org](mailto:secretary@esuuc.org).





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## Service Auction 2006 – Donations

Please use one sheet per donations

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Item/Service:

Minimum Bid:

No. of places available:

Description:

Information can be mailed to: [treasurer@esuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@esuuc.org)

Due by Sunday, March 5

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