

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 43 No. 2

September 2005

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ESUUC Sunday Services

Sunday, September 4, 10:30am- “*Annual Church Picnic*” – Bring a potluck dish to share; enjoy your friends! From 10:30 AM until 11:30 AM, we invite interested members to present expressions of their talents and/or interests. This could be anything from a song or a story to a painting or craft.

Sunday, September 11, 10:30am- “*Service of Hope*” Start-up Sunday - On this anniversary of 9/11/01 we will reflect a bit on the positive aspects of life. We will also observe *Water Communion* – Presented by **Dr. Renee Waun**. This is the first official service of our new program year – bring water from your summer experiences! The choir, Chancel Quartet, and Funshine Folk puppets will participate.

Sunday, September 18, 10:30am- “*Intergenerational Service*” - Join **Leona Dunnett** and the RE youth as they put together their own special program. It's sure to be complete with religious issues and some really terrific talent from our up and coming UUs.

Sunday, September 25, 10:30am- “*Her Royal Highnesses: Esther*” - Our friend and biblical scholar **Dr. Sue Lau** will be with us again to mine scriptural stories for nuggets of interest and even humor. Part 2: *Esther*: This biblical woman is credited with saving her people (the Jews) from wholesale annihilation at the hands of a foreign monarch—to whom she was married! And it all began with lots of feasting and a beauty pageant.

Sunday, October 2, 10:30am- “*Sleeping With the Enemy*” - This is International Gandhi Day when we think about making peace with our enemies. There was a time when Germany and later Russia were our enemies, but now we are all on friendly terms with each other. **Dr. Waun** has traveled and stayed with families in both of these countries over the summer and has witnessed the peace journey that has been under way over the past few decades. She will reflect on her experiences of the trip, which included traveling with her 10 year old granddaughter and getting lost on the Russian subway.

Sunday, October 9, 10:30am- “*Partner Churches in Romania*” - **Lois Davis**, a laywoman from the Akron UU Church in Ohio, shares her recent experience visiting their partner church in Transylvania. (See related article on partner churches.)



Pastor's Column:

by Rev. Renee Waun

It's All Relative

This summer I took some time to sort, clean and organize my basement, going through things that had been piling up for almost 8 years. I was on the lookout for some 35mm slides that I knew were down there somewhere—photos of my year as a college student studying and traveling abroad, and also of my trip to the Middle East (my grandson wanted to see the photos I took of the Great Pyramids of Egypt). At last I uncovered a box that contained a collection of slides that I hadn't seen in years.

I was very excited about this, and had a time of real enjoyment and nostalgia as I looked at each one, remembering details about my trips that I had long since forgotten. I was still feeling especially grateful for this treasure the next day when I uncovered another box in the basement that held a paper packet with a rubber band around it. What in the world was that?

It turned out to be a selection of 100 of my best slides from the Israel and Egypt trip that I once set aside from the others for a slide show I was giving. That's why they were in a different box.

Of course, now I remember doing it and was amazed and delighted in seeing these pictures again. But I also recalled how thankful I had been the day before, and that even finding yet another bigger treasure could not take that feeling away. I realized that I would have felt that grateful if I had just found one of the boxes, and so the gratitude was just compounded that much more by unexpectedly finding them both.

It's all relative. The feelings we had about things yesterday must be put into perspective with the things that happen today or tomorrow or the next day, because we never know from day to day what will turn up in our experience to relativize our thoughts and feelings.

I guess the best thing to do is to live in our "now", to feel the gratitude and appreciation for the good that "is" and to use that as a springboard for anticipating the enjoyment that comes next. It might be something even more amazing and delightful than we had imagined, so be ready! May it be so for all of us as we begin another program year at East Suburban Church.

Split the (Collection) Plate

Starting with the September 11 service, ESUUC has voted to starting "splitting the plate" with a local charity, for example, the Westmoreland County Food Bank. Each month a different group will be chosen to receive half the cash and miscellaneous donations from the Sunday collection. We did something similar last January but donating the entire "plate" to the Tsunami relief efforts. We managed to donate over \$700 in cash and another \$800 in direct donations to the relief efforts.

You can still put your pledge payments in the collection plate and they won't be included in the "plate" but to avoid any confusion you can always just write "pledge" in the memo field on the check. If you want to make a direct donation to either the charity or the church, and you are using a check, you can note that in the memo as well. To specify that a cash donation be directed to either the church or the charity you will have to put it in an envelope with an explanation.

We decided to split the plate at the last Annual Meeting as part of mission "to be a beacon and haven." We hope that by focusing some of efforts and money out into the community, we will begin to be seen as a

positive force. If you have any questions about this program please talk to Cathy Serventi, at (724) 387-1155 or treasurer@esuuc.org.

New Windows Coming in September!

Beautifully designed Pella windows with a Frank Lloyd Wright look will be installed in the Sanctuary and kitchen by Labor Day. They include venetian blinds installed between the panes of glass. We think you will agree with the Aesthetics Committee that the artistic effect is worth the cost. The committee, co-chaired by Jean Robl and Maureen Lilly, meets the third Sunday of the month, and we welcome interested members to join us.

Choir and Music Notes

We have a wonderful choir that is small but growing. Would you like to join us? We sing in the service about once every month, with practice before the service on that same Sunday. Our next appearance will be on Sunday, September 11. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Dr. Waun revmom@pitt.edu 412-731-2834.

MUSICIANS are invited to contact Brian Ogle our Music Director brianwilliamogle@yahoo.com 724-387-1190. We would like to find people who play a variety of instruments, or who sing and would find it rewarding to do so during an occasional service.

Romania Trip: 2006

SIGN UP FOR OUR EAST SUBURBAN ROMANIA TRIP 2006

Rev. Waun and a committee that includes Nancy Fitzgerald, Jean Robl and Jane Longdon are working with the Unitarian Universalist Association's partnering office and Mr. John Dale, UUA staff in Transylvania, to plan a Unitarian Heritage trip to Romania and Hungary for our church next summer.

Transylvania is an area of gorgeous scenery as it stretches across the dramatic peaks and valleys of the Carpathian Mountains. We will fly into Bucharest on July 30 and return from Budapest on August 10, 2006. The trip will feature important UU historical sites including a visit to the castle of King John Sigmund who was the first and only monarch to declare a country "Unitarian" with true freedom of religion back in the 1500s.

We will arrange home stays in native Unitarian villages, and thus see the country through a different set of lenses as well as make new friends. And of course, we will include a bit of Dracula folklore just for fun.

To participate in this trip you must get your name onto the signup sheet posted in the church lobby and make a deposit of \$300 per person to hold your place in the group. Checks are to be made payable to ESUUC with the note "UU Heritage Trip" on the check and put into the offering plate or sent to Cathy Serventi, Treasurer, ESUUC, 4326 Sardis Road, Murrysville, PA 15668. Direct your questions to trip leader Dr. Waun 412-731-2834, revmom@pitt.edu.

The number of participants on this trip is limited to 20 persons (with a waiting list beyond 20)—on a first come, first served basis. Although East Suburban folks are planning this trip we are inviting UUs from other Pittsburgh area churches to come as well, so the participant quota is assured.

There are two payment plans.

Payment Plan A: \$300 deposit to confirm trip; balance due by June 1.

Payment Plan B: \$300 deposit before Oct. 1; \$500 payment by Dec. 1; \$500 payment by Feb. 1; \$500 payment; by April 1, \$500 payment by June 1; balance due no later than July 1.

Unitarianism began in Transylvania, which now falls within the borders of both Romania and Hungary. There are still tens of thousands of Unitarians in dozens of churches across Transylvania, so there are lots of sites to see in conjunction with our history. We are gratefully aware that Unitarianism migrated from Transylvania west to England eventually influencing those who became our American founding fathers. Thus we have an indelible connection to these roots in Romania, making the trip even more relevant.

(The next time you are the back of our sanctuary, check out the framed historical picture showing King John Sigmund's Minister Rev. Frances Dawide arguing for the declaration of Unitarianism in Transylvania.)

Proposal for Partner Church in Transylvania

In conjunction with our UU Heritage trip next summer (see related article), Rev. Waun presented a proposal to our Board to consider having a partner church in Transylvania. When that region was freed from communism over a decade ago the UUA moved quickly to reestablish connections with our heritage by forming partnerships between North American UU churches and Transylvanian ones.

Since that time, many matches have been made and friendships have been cemented across cultures. Because we will be traveling to this region next summer, the trip planners thought it would be so much more meaningful to have a certain group of people to look forward to seeing there. The UUA partnering office has told us that in working out our itinerary we can arrange to visit churches that are open to finding an American partner.

What does partnership involve? It really depends on the churches themselves, but for the size of our church, we are likely looking at a small church where people could write back and forth (the UUA provides some translation) and where children and youth could exchange letters and artwork. A yearly love offering would be sent to them.

This is all in the beginning stages but we are very excited by the possibilities and it gives us even more reason to want to visit Transylvania.

Programs on Partner Churches

OCTOBER 9 PROGRAM IS ABOUT AKRON CHURCH'S PARTNER IN ROMANIA

Lois Davis, a laywoman from the Akron UU Church in Ohio is coming to ESUUC to present our October 9 program. She and a group from Akron went to Romania recently to visit their partner church there. (See related article on partner churches.)

We know that Lois has some great stories and photos to share from her trip and that she will be able to answer first hand the questions that we might have concerning both the idea of having a partner church in Romania as well as traveling in that country. We hope you will join us. Also, in February, Mr. John Dale who is the UUA staff person who lives in Transylvania and coordinates the heritage trips will be coming to our church to present a program about our own upcoming trip to this region.

“Thank You” from Murrysville Lions Club

Dear Pastor Waun,

On behalf of the Murrysville Lions Club I would like to extend to you and the congregation our sincere thanks and appreciation for participating in the “Recycle for Sight” campaign by helping to collect used eyeglasses.

It was a successful campaign with a total of 367 prescription eyeglasses and 36 regular sunglasses collected during the month of May. The prescription eyeglasses will be distributed free to people in developing nations where eye care is often unaffordable. The sunglasses will go to people living in areas where the intense rays from the sun could harm unprotected eyes.

Thank you for giving the gift of sight.

*Sincerely, Walt Weiland Chairman; Sight, Hearing and Diabetes Committee,
Murrysville Lions Club*

Party on Saturday, Aug 27

Come say goodbye to summer (and school) with Gene, Cathy and Adam:

Saturday, **August 27**

Starts at **2:00 pm** goes until whenever.

We'll have grilling stuff (including veggies), allkyhol, and other general munchies. We really just want to see your smiling faces, but if you want to show off your cooking prowess, salads or desserts would work.

Family (even kids - especially babies), friends, random houseguests, pets (no goats - Julie, although Daisy is very cute) are welcome. The kitty prefers small dogs and rodents to snack on. The spider likes crickets.

Call if you need directions (724-387-1155)

Our address is:

121 Crosswinds Ln.

Murrysville, PA 15668

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=121+Crosswinds+Ln,+Murrysville+PA+15668&spn=0.031281,0.060176&hl=en>

Discussions: Disappearance of the Universe

Disappearance of the Universe: Straight Talk about Illusions, Past Lives, Religion, Sex, Politics and the Miracles of Forgiveness. There is a fascinating book with this title by Gary Renard. The conversations among Gary and two unexpected visitors will be the subject of discussions at the Edgewood Library over 14 sessions. An integrated and entirely different approach to being in this world and getting back home is revealed with candor, humor and the recognition of truth. Excerpts and more can be found at www.garyrenard.com. It's also an accessible way to be introduced to the ideas in A Course in Miracles.

Sandy Lowe and Nancy Fitzgerald will facilitate the discussions on most Monday evenings from **6:00 till 7:45 pm** starting **September 19, 2005** through March 6, 2006. Sign up with Nancy (412-731-2994) or Sandy or at the library to participate in the discussion group.

Wheel of the Year

The "Wheel of the Year" celebrations have been going well. We have solidified dates for the rest of 2005 to celebrate the earth. Please join us for a Thanksgiving for the Harvest potluck dinner and bonfire as we celebrate Mabon on Friday, **Sept. 23**. We will join together in fellowship and thanks while we feast on what the harvest year has given us. Then we will have drumming and celebrations around a bonfire. Please contact Leona Dunnett or Kathy Begg with any questions (secretary@esuuc.org or REdirector@esuuc.org).

Samhain is just around the corner. We hope to have a bonfire campout on Saturday, **Oct. 29**, which will lead us into the Samhain service on Sunday. Plans are still in the works, so please stay tuned for further details.

Yule is a joyous time also. We will celebrate this festive holiday on **December 21** (more details to follow).

Peace and Justice Mobilization in D.C

From **September 24-26**, Washington, DC will be the setting for the largest mobilization since last year's RNC protests. Tens of thousands are expected to converge on the Nation's capitol for three days of mass action to demand an end to the war in Iraq. As the IMF and World Bank's meeting will also be taking place that weekend, the mobilization presents a rare opportunity to bring together anti-war and global justice activists to strike back against the Empire.

More details:

<http://www.unitedforpeace.org>

<http://www.septemberaction.org>

<http://www.globalizethis.org>

Buses to DC!

The Thomas Merton Center is organizing buses to DC. The details are still being finalized, but the tickets for a one-day trip for Saturday will cost around \$30. A limited number of scholarships will be available. Buses or vans for people who want to stay through Monday may be organized as well if there is sufficient interest.

On Saturday, September 24, buses have been reserved to leave from the University of Pittsburgh's William Pitt Union super early Saturday morning and will return late that night.

Starting this Monday (August 1), people can make reservations on-line at

<http://www.pittsburghendthewar.org> (preferred) or by calling the Thomas Merton Center at 412-361-3022.

Visit <http://www.pittsburghendthewar.org> or email info@pittsburghendthewar.org for more information.

There will also be a bus sponsored by Beaver County Peace Links! This bus will be leaving Butler, swinging through New Castle (if there are enough folks interested from Lawrence Co.), then onto Beaver to pick up Beaver County Peace Links folks. The bus will be leaving Beaver at 6 AM from the IBEW Hall, 217 Sassafras Lane, Vanport, 15009 (off 3rd St. Beaver, just off Rte 60) on Sept 24th, returning on the same day at approx. 11:00 PM (specific return time TBA).

Cost is \$40 per seat. Send a \$40 check to "Beaver County Peace Links", PO Box 31, Ambridge PA 15003. For more info call Marcia Lehman -- 724-251-0994 or Tina Shannon -- 724-843-0545 or email at marcia.lehman@comcast.net.

The Return of MOVIE NIGHT!

We will have our first movie night of the year on Friday, **October 7**. We will be showing Shrek 2 - a very fun movie for everyone! Doors open at **7:30 pm** and we'll show the movie at 8. Feel free to bring snacks and beverages (adult beverages are OK). Kids may want to bring a sleeping bag or a pillow and stretch out on the floor for this one.

We are always looking for good movies to show, so if you have you'd like to recommend, or would like to see, please let us know. Hope to see you October 7!

Upcoming Community Events

(Save the dates)

Saturday, **October 15**: our twice a year clean up of Sardis Road (intersection of Route 22 to Heather Drive).
Saturday, **October 29**: children's Halloween party

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. 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.

See you around the kitchen----Kate

Refreshments Roster

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

Sept 4	Annual Church Picnic—bring something to share
Sept 11	Kate Codd-Palmer/Brien Palmer
Sept 18	Merritt and Tom Bailey
Sept 25	Dan and Kate Begg

Oct 2	Kathy Belli
Oct 9	Jenifer Cheripka
Oct 16	Steven Davis
Oct 23	Leona and Tom Dunnett
Oct 30	Marylyn Devlin

“Way Cool Sunday School” Program

Welcome back to a new year and a new style of RE program. This year we are adopting a “Way Cool Sunday School” concept that will be a grand departure from the way the program has run in the past.

Under the new format, the first Sunday of every month the kids will start out by attending the Adult service, and then will go to Children's Chapel. The Second and Third Sunday's we will have RE classes, as we have in the past. The Fourth Sunday will be dedicated to a service project. If there is a Fifth Sunday in any given month, it will be used for Arts and Crafts.

The Children's Chapel will mirror the adult service in many ways, but will be geared toward kids. We do intend to include Gifts of the Congregation. We will ask the kids to pick a charity, and all funds donated will go to it.

The Youth Group will spear head the service project. The project planned for this fall is to make hats, scarves, and (hopefully) mittens out of fleece that will be donated to Westmoreland County Children's and Youth Services. To support this project we need to borrow sewing machines on the fourth Sunday in October. Does anyone have a machine they can bring to church on those days??!! Mine is not portable . . . We also need fleece - preferably double sided - to make the hats etc . . . If you have any fleece you could donate, or might be able to buy a yard and donate it, it would be a great help to us.

For the Fifth Sundays art projects, we do have some ideas, but would love to hear yours! Please send along any you think might work. We will have kids from pre-school through Jr. High involved.

RE Class Schedule

Nursery:	Day	Teacher
	Sept 4	no nursery today
	11	no nursery today
	18	Zea Zingarelli
	25	Cathy Serventi

Lower Elementary:	Day	Class Description	Teacher
	Sept 4	No RE Program Today	n/a
	11	Water Communion - Kids Attend Service	n/a
	18	Valuing Both the Group and the Individual (Session 1)	Kate Zingarelli
	25	From Being Affirmed to Self-Affirmation (Session 2)	Gayle Pamerleau

Upper Elementary:	Day	Class Description	Teacher
	Sept 4	No RE Program Today	n/a
	11	Water Communion - Kids Attend Service	n/a
	18	Introduction to Beginning Myths (Session1)	Karen Katilius
	25	A Story from the Early Greeks (Session 4)	TBD

Middle School:	Day	Class Description	Teacher
	Sept 4	No RE Program Today	n/a
	11	Water Communion - Kids Attend Service	n/a
	18	Getting to Know You	Marianne Jew
	25	Positive Attitudes	Laurie Montgomery

Youth Group

Youth Group meetings (all are **Sunday evenings, from 6-8pm**): **September 11 and 25.**

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

Barter Board

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - words that could have been written by a UU! In support of Reuse and Recycle, we will be continuing the Barter Board this year.

The Board will be located in the RE hallway on the Community Bulletin Board we have installed. In an effort to improve its usefulness, we have made two columns - one for trade/sell and one for needs. Another change is that instead of having a sheet of paper tacked up for everyone to list their items, we have put together 'Cards' (a copy is reproduced below). Blanks will be available on the bulletin board itself. Fill one out and put it up in the appropriate column. If you'd like your item listed in the weekly updates, fill an extra card out and give it to Leona Dunnett, or put it in the Secretary's mailbox, or e-mail the information to her, and it will get done.

In order to keep the Board from getting overcrowded, we do ask that you take your note down once you have gotten rid of your item, or found what you need. 30 days seems like a good amount of time to have the individual cards up, so we will take individual cards down after 30 days. If you would like to have your item stay up longer, use the date box on the card. We hope this proves to be a useful service for all of us. Please take advantage of it!

Kathy Begg (REdirector@esuuc.org)

Sample Card:

(circle one)	TRADE/SELL	NEED
Today's Date:		
Your name:		
How do we reach you: (Phone, e-mail)		
Item/Service:		
Will trade or sell for:		
Need - will pay or trade for:		
Please keep this item on the Board until:		

Want your item listed in the weekly newsletter? Fill out an extra copy of this 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.

SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS

(Also posted on the bulletin board in the kitchen)

What to Buy (plan on about 30 adults and 15 children of various ages)

-juice

-whatever kind of snack you would like to serve (examples are: nuts, bagels, muffins, fruit, vegetables, breads, cheese, crackers, cookies, mini quiches). It's really your decision to serve what you want or like.

Feel free to use the oven

Setting Up

The table in the community room should have:

Coffee mugs

Styrofoam hot cups

Creamers

Sugar/sweetener

Plate/spoon to stir coffee

Assorted teas

Paper plates

Napkins

Juice cups

HOT WATER—there is a smaller/older coffee pot, fill half way with water and plug into outlet near the serving table in the community room. Start hot water before service begins

COFFEE---start coffee around 11am (takes about 1 minute per cup to brew). Use same outlet in the community room

To make 35 cups use 2 ¼ cups of coffee

To make 30 cups use 2 cups of coffee

To make 25 cups use 1¾ cups of coffee

**Unless it is around a holiday or special event, 25 cups
of coffee is plenty**

Basin of hot water—In an effort to be nicer to the planet we are trying to use coffee mugs rather than paper cups. Fill the white dish basin in the sink with hot “soapy” water. Individuals using mugs can then wash their own mug after using

Clean Up

Wash coffee pot and put away

Empty coffee pot with hot water and put away

Put away unused cups, plates, napkins

Put away teas, sugar, creamers

Wash, dry and put away any bowls, dishes or silverware you may have used

Nudge all those who used ceramic mugs to wash and rinse their own mug

Empty garbage pail in community room and kitchen and take to dumpster in rear of parking lot

Replace garbage pails with clean garbage bags

Thank you, Thank you.....rest easy knowing you won't be asked to do this again for many months!

If you notice anything that we are running low on please notify Kate Codd-Palmer at (724)324-3903 or katecp@bellatlantic.net