

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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ESUUC Sunday Services

Sunday, December 31, 10:30 am – *“The Yin Yang in Traditional Chinese Culture”* - The Taoist symbol of the balance between the Yin and Yang forms the backbone of much of Eastern spiritual thought. **Dr. Jun Deng** will discuss how it is used to create a sense of balance in the individual and in the culture at large. Start off 2007 in balance and help to keep your world and our world that way!

Saturday, January 6, 8:30-2:00pm: Annual All-Church Retreat
(see description later in newsletter)

Sunday, January 7, 10:30 am – *“The Beat Goes On”* - the beat of African drums is heard in an outlying village where disadvantaged children make beautiful music in a concert to support their school. This is one of the activities of the African Rural Schools Foundation supported by our congregation. **Ken Noble and Dr. Waun** will bring us up to date on the ongoing vision there in Uganda, based on Ken’s recent volunteer trip to the ARSF. He will share from his experience of the growing project and its people.

Sunday, January 14, 10:30 am – *“US Policy in Iraq”* - What should US policy be in Iraq in light of the November Congressional Elections and the "civil war" there? How can you contact your member of Congress to register your views? **Rosa Thompson, Jerry Lilly and Tom Bailey** will each give their ideas on these topics. We will welcome you to share your views also.

Sunday, January 21, 10:30 am – *“Understanding Fundamentalism”* - During the last decade of national elections, Christian fundamentalists have joined with mainstream conservatives to elect Republican majorities in congress and the White House. These fundamentalists may seem strange and unapproachable to those on the other end of the social and religions spectrum, and the reverse is true as well. UUs may say "I respect their beliefs, but they don't respect mine", while fundamentalists may say "You don't understand me at all. Your blithe presumption that 'all faiths are equal' is profoundly disrespectful to my beliefs." Is there any way that UUs can understand and truly respect fundamentalists? **Brien Palmer's** answer may surprise and challenge you.

Sunday, January 28, 10:30am-“Pancake Breakfast” - Come eat pancakes cooked by the menfolk and enjoy a Healthy Food Potluck Buffet at the same time. Everybody please bring an item of healthy food, vaguely breakfast oriented, to share.

Sunday, February 4, 10:30am- *“Isms and Schisms”*- It is often said today that the straight, white western male has the most unearned, inborn privileges. Is this still true? What are some of the “isms” in our present day culture that would lead someone to think this way? **Dr. Waun** will elaborate on a topic that unpacks some of these disparities.



Pastor's Column: A New Year, A New View

by Rev. Renee Waun

I must confess to having a new addiction: Google Satellite! I could spend oodles of time just “flying” around the globe, looking at sights I have personally visited, or places I have always wanted to see.

I have had enormous pleasure zooming in on Budapest, the Taj Mahal, Buckingham Palace, the Rock of Gibraltar, Kampala, the Grand Canyon, New York City... the list goes on and on. Whenever I think of another place I would like to “see”, I point and click and away I go! I have even made plans for my next vacation based on the previews of what I can expect to see there. Wow. It truly is amazing (and addictive!)

Isn't it exhilarating to have a new view on the world? I think that as we enter the New Year, I would like to try to have a new view on the life of East Suburban Church. What could we be doing? Where would we like to go? How can we be a true outpost of progressive thought and practice here in our chosen place?

Yes, January is the time when we can shift gears again. I invite you all to attend our annual retreat coming on January 6. It will truly be a time where we can dream and envision and “fly” together to some amazing places. Please join us!



mUUsings from the President

by Matt Mathis

The New Year is traditionally a time to reflect on the past year, and to consider on how we might make ourselves better in the coming year. Many people make very specific New Years resolutions. Here at and to think about the future. Although the details of the annual retreat vary quite a bit from year to year, the high point is always the same: collectively dreaming about the great things that our small congregation might accomplish. For me, this collective dreaming is a big part of the soul of our church. It is where we each bring our own individual ideals for our great community, and fuse them into a collective vision for our future. I hope everyone will consider participating.

Like all good dreams, we always aim high, and yet as long as I have been involved, we have always exceeded my expectations.

This month I am launching a new feature I am calling "ESUUC Opportunities". This will be a listing of small projects around the church that need some attention. Most will be one-time tasks that can be done in

an hour or two. For example, we authorized purchasing a projector for movie nights, but all of the officers have been too busy to do the shopping. I would also like somebody to help me formulate a plan for "web casting" our Sunday services, by investigating the technical issues. If anybody is interested in either of these projects, please get in touch with me.

Please feel free to call me at 412.654.7529 or drop a note to me at mathis@psc.edu or president@esuuc.org.

Results – Fast for Heifer International

Thank you to everyone who donated to or participated in the thirty hour fast I organized to raise money for Heifer International (www.heifer.org). We raised \$520 dollars for the organization!!!! That's great!!!! Heifer International is such a great organization and I think it really does make a difference in the world when you donate to them. I hope also that I have introduced this organization to people who may not have known about it and that people who donated will continue to donate in the future. Thanks again! - Julia

Buy Scrip – “Cash and Carry” or Place Orders

The CoA scrip program has raised \$300 for our church and the CoA program! Please continue to buy Giant Eagle, Gasoline, and Gift Cards (including Panera) - and help fundraise at the same time. Giant Eagle cards (\$100) and Panera (\$10) are available “cash and carry” – see Marianne. If you buy gas at Sunoco, the scrip card (\$50) can be used right at the pump. Giant Eagle cards can be used at the GetGo gas stations.

Contact Marianne (email scrip@esuuc.org) or one of the Coming of Age youth to get more details. To see the full list of current stores online: <https://www.glscrip.com/retailerlist/index.aspx>

Adult RE - Planning

Requests, proposals and suggestions for Winter and Spring Adult RE sessions or series can be made now. We are considering a series of creativity workshops. If you wish to facilitate a workshop or a series, contact Maureen C. McHugh, 724-733-3620, mcmchugh@IUP.edu

Keep Recycling Paper

ESUUC's recycling program is a way to raise funds, but more importantly, to help the environment.

What we CAN recycle: catalogs, magazines, newspapers, junk mail, office paper, fax paper, notebooks, folders. NO phonebooks, please. (Note: shredded office paper in clear plastic bags is acceptable)

What we CANNOT recycle: cereal boxes, chipboard, milk cartons, soda cartons, or food cartons. These items cannot be used to make newsprint. This is considered contamination and may ruin an entire load of material.

Murrysville residents: feel free to encourage your neighbors to use ESUUC's bin. If you have any questions, please leave a message for Chris Priano (724-327-5872). Thanks in advance for your support!

Help Us Make Blankets

We are still welcoming donations of time or materials to support the RE service project: making blankets for donation to Project Linus. This is a non-profit organization that collects and distributes blankets to children, infants through teens, who are seriously ill or going through a traumatic time. This organization has a local office that donates to various organizations in Westmoreland County.

If you can donate fleece, dry-cleaning bags, or serve as an adult helper, or have further questions, please contact Kate (email redirector@esuuc.org).

Valentine's Day Truffles For Sale

The Coming of Age youth will be taking orders for truffles and almond roca. Orders will be taken from Dec 31 through Sunday, Jan 14, and the candies will be delivered on Sunday, Feb 11, just in time for Valentine's Day!

Care Notes

If anyone has any news that they want to share, please send it to newsletter@esuuc.org

Teen Book Club

For more information, please contact Julia via email: redirector@esuuc.org

Sunday Book Club

For information about the Sunday evening book club, contact: SunBookClub@esuuc.org .

Thursday Book Club

Upcoming Book Club meeting dates (these are all Thursdays and start at **7:30 pm**):

December 28

Location: Penn Center Panera (Meeting Room), near Sears, in Wilkins Township. If you need a ride, would like to borrow a copy the book from someone who has finished it, or have any questions, the address bookclub@esuuc.org sends email to the all the active members. If you want to be added to the book club reminder email list, send email to treasurer@esuuc.org . The book club is open to anyone who is interested. Books generally alternate between fiction and non-fiction.

Annual All-Church Retreat

Annual All-Church Retreat Saturday, January 6, 8:30-2:00pm

"*Shining Forward*" is the theme of this year's all-church retreat, inspired by the fact that this day is Epiphany, marked in ancient tradition as the day the Magi arrived at the manger to offer their gifts (also known as the Twelfth Day of Christmas).

Our time together will include various images of epiphany: following the light and experiencing moments of insight or illumination in which we come to gain a new understanding ourselves, our church and the world around us as we look forward toward our future.

We will begin at 8:30am with a light breakfast and getting acquainted, followed by presentations, group process, lively discussion and creative outlets. Lunch will be served. If you will need childcare, we ask that you make reservations by calling Leona Dunnett by Wednesday, January 3 (724-327-3841).

By the way, how many UUs does it take to change a light bulb? Come to this captivating retreat and find out once and for all during this great Epiphany event!

Join the Choir

Join the Choir on **January 7** for their next rehearsal (**9:30 am**) and performance (**during Service**). All are welcome! Contact Brian Ogle if you have any questions.

Drumming News

Saturday, **January 20 at 7:00 pm** - Family Drumming Circle - 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!

Sunday, **January 21 at 7:30 pm** - Drumming Circle - 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?

Any questions - contact Jen Trout Osborne at 412-608-2725 or drumming@esuuc.org

DownUnder Coffeehouse

On Saturday Jan 27, 2007 at 7:30pm, the DownUnder Coffeehouse will host Molly In The Crowd, performing Scottish, Irish, and English traditional music on traditional and some very non-traditional instruments, including the tuba and Turkish cumbus. Molly In The Crowd, a relative newcomer on the Pittsburgh Music Scene, has performed on the Saturday Light Brigade radio show, at the Bloomfield Bridge Tavern (through Calliope), for the Guthrie Arts Guild in Grove City (in connection with the Pennsylvania Council for the Arts), and has been heard on WRCT.

Molly In The Crowd includes Roger Day of the Colombian band Besame on tuba, John Meikle on vocals, whistles, and chanter, Robert Metil from Chatham College on guitar, mandolin, 5-string banjo, cumbus, and vocals, and Rip Reuffle, Calliope bodhran teacher and drummer for the band ATS on bodhran and other percussion. John and Rob are recognized masters of the folk and traditional arts by the Pennsylvania Council for the Arts.

The DownUnder Coffeehouse is open one Saturday each month in Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church, 416 West North Ave, North Side. Suggested donation for this month's show is \$10. Desserts and coffee will be available. Call 412-322-4261 or see www.alleghenyuu.org for more details.

Travel to Alaska

Five Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to eco-cultural programs in June right after the Portland General Assembly or in July 2007. See the *REAL* Alaska! With UU homestays in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Seward, Juneau and Sitka, UUs host parties and lead tours. We visit Tlingit and Inupiat Native Alaskans, see wildlife from bears, moose and caribou to whales, sea otters and sea lions. We visit Denali and 3 other National Parks. Led by Rev. Dick & Mary Weston-Jones, 12th year. www.wuurld.org E-mail alaska@wuurld.org or phone 1-888- 998-8753 for a brochure. Reservation deadline: February 28.

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, **although I have had a request from those in the middle of the alphabet who always get to bring food in the snow to move things around, so we are starting roughly in the middle of the alphabet this calendar 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 and in the September 2006 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

Dec 31	Sharing Sunday – everyone brings
Jan 7	Laurie Montgomery
Jan 14	Andrea and Ken Noble
Jan 21	Jen Trout-Osborne and Jim Osborne
Jan 28	Pancake Breakfast – bring something to share (see Program description)

Feb 4	Kate Codd-Palmer and Brien Palmer
Feb 11	Gayle Pamerleau
Feb 18	Mike and Carlene Pasipanki
Feb 25	Chris Priano

RE Class Schedule

Nursery:	Day	Teacher
	Dec 31	No care provider today
	Jan 7	Natalie Mendik
	14	Maria Luczkow

Nursery (cont):	Day	Teacher
	21	Mary Warwick
	28	Pancake Breakfast for all - No care provider today

Elementary:	Day	Class Description	Teacher
	Dec 31	No RE Program Today	
	Jan 7	Children's Chapel: all kids attend	Marianne Jew
	14	Wise King Solomon	Gayle Pamerleau
	21	Jonah and the Large Fish	Kate Zingarelli
	28	Pancake Breakfast for all - No RE Program Today	

Middle:	Day	Class Description	Teacher
	Dec 31	No RE Program Today	
	Jan 7	Children's Chapel: all kids attend	Marianne Jew
	14	John the Baptist	Tom Dunnett
	21	The Temptations of Jesus	Jen Trout-Osborne
	28	Pancake Breakfast for all - No RE Program Today	

Coming of Age:	Day	Class Description	Teacher
	Dec 31	No RE Program Today	
	Jan 7	Taoism	Frank Nemeth or Gerard Katilius
	14	Taoism	Frank Nemeth or Gerard Katilius
	21	All Ages Con - No CoA Class Today	
	28	Pancake Breakfast for all - No RE Program Today	

Youth Group

Youth Group meetings (all are **Sunday evenings**, from **7-9 pm**): **January 14, 28**

Dates and times are subject to change, so please check for updates: contact Leona Dunnett, Youth Advisor (ldunnett@alltel.net).

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 Kathy Ruffing, put it in the Secretary's mailbox, or e-mail the info to Kathy at secretary@esuuc.org .

Experimental Online Calendar

We are experimenting with Google online calendars to see if they might make it easier to coordinate church events. This will not affect most members since we will continue to generate all of our current paper and electronic calendars from the new online calendar, but people who want immediate access to the most up-to-date information on ESUUC events can go directly to: <http://www.esuuc.org/calendar.htm>

Calendar

Thu Dec 28, 2006

7:30pm [ESUUC Bookclub](#)

Sat Jan 6, 2007

9am [Annual All-Church Retreat](#)

Sun Jan 7, 2007

12pm [Program Committee meeting](#)

Thu Jan 11, 2007

7:30pm [Board Meeting \[More\]](#)

Sun Jan 14, 2007

4pm [CoA Candidate/Mentor Meeting](#)

7pm [Youth Group](#)

Sat Jan 20, 2007

7pm [Family Drumming Circle](#)

Sun Jan 21, 2007

7:30pm [Drumming - Meditate and Groove](#)

11pm [Newsletter Deadline](#)

Sun Jan 28, 2007

10:30am [Pancake Breakfast and sing-a-long](#)

7pm [Youth Group](#)

Thu Feb 1, 2007

7:30pm [Board Meeting \[More\]](#)

Sun Feb 4, 2007

12pm [Program Committee meeting](#)

Online Payments

ESUUC has established a "PayPal" account, enabling us to accept pledge payments and other contributions electronically, via our web site. We can also accept online donations to the African Rural Schools Foundation (ARSF). Visit <http://www.esuuc.org/donations.htm> and select the appropriate "Make a Donation" button (ESUUC or ARSF). If you experience any difficulty, please leave a message for Chris Priano (724-327-5872 or finance@esuuc.org).

Congregational Committees

Committee – Chair (email)

Aesthetics – Jean Robl and Maureen Lilly	Membership – Marylyn Devlin
Building and Facilities – Jim Osborne	Music – Alan Halperin
Caring & Concerns – Maria Luczkow	Pastoral Care – Maria Luczkow
(caring@esuuc.org)	Religious Education – Kate Zingarelli
Committee on Ministry – open	Signs and Symbols – Leona Dunnett
Community – Kate Codd-Palmer	Social Enrichment – open
Drumming – Jen Trout-Osborne (drumming@esuuc.org)	Sunday Programs/Celebrations – Mary
Finance – Chris Priano	Kukura-Straw
Landscaping – Laurie Montgomery	Welcoming Congregation – Matt Mathis

Newsletter Deadlines

January 2007 newsletter deadline: **NOTE DIFFERENT DAY OF THE WEEK**
Wednesday, January 17

PRIVACY: Our newsletter is posted on the ESUUC website. If you don't want your phone number to be published, please don't include it in any newsletter submissions. Instead, use the church phone number. If you would like an email alias (format is "<your choice>@esuuc.org"), please contact Cathy Serventi.

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 Kathy at secretary@esuuc.org. No attachments please.