

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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February 2007

**Editor: Marianne Jew
newsletter@esuuc.org**

ESUUC Sunday Services

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.

Sunday, February 11, 10:30am - *“Love Makes a Family”*- On this Sunday before Valentine’s Day we are delighted to welcome a person who bubbles over with loving energy and has a unique story to share. **Mr. Don Hammonds** will tell us some of the pathways and pitfalls he has experienced with his partner Joey while raising three children in Edgewood. Don is the Auto Editor for the Post Gazette and is attending Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Sunday, February 18, 10:30am - *“We Are Part of OMD”*- **Gerard Katilius**, past president of ESUUC, is the Small Congregation Resource Liaison for the Ohio-Meadville District. He will share with us what he has learned about the structure and future of our O-M District, and what it means for our Church.

Sunday, February 25, 10:30am- *“Darwin Remembers”*- Charles Darwin, as portrayed by **Dr. David Campbell**, looks back over his life, thinking out loud as well as hearing voices from his past that were part of his life and work, as he formulated the theory that changed the world forever. This live performance, sponsored by Carnegie Science Center and The Center for Inquiry Community of Pittsburgh, is very much in the tradition of one man/one woman shows and provides an overall understanding of Darwin.

Sunday, March 4, 10:30am-*“Eastern Energy”*- It seems that more and more people who are either considered “churched”, “pre-churched” or “church free” are being attracted to the practices of eastern religions. **Dr. Waun** will explore this attraction. What is it, and how are its various facets manifested in western culture and religion?



Pastor's Column: Our Season

by Rev. Renee Waun

“Our Season” - For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under Heaven. Ecc. 3. It really IS winter, you know, even though the globe has warmed and the snow has been hard to find this year. It is a time for inward growth and reflection, a time for regenerating the deep recesses of our being.

Because we live in the north, we enjoy the change of seasons, and every season has its focus. In the spring we plow and plant and plan. In the summer we cultivate and nourish and flourish. In the autumn we harvest and stockpile and preserve. All of these tasks are mandated by the seasons, especially if we are farmers.

But in the usual bleakness and cold of winter, the earth asks nothing of us. Some farmers of old used to call winter “our season” because they didn’t have to scramble to accomplish the many outdoor farming tasks that the other seasons demand. So they could spend more time relaxing, being creative and connected with others in the family.

May this be “our season” in the life of our church—a time for growing and reflecting, a time for regeneration and creativity and connection with one another and our world. Whatever this season represents for you, may it be full and rich and abundant.



mUUsings from the President

by Matt Mathis

As a community, we are turning more of our attention to the environment and the interconnected web of all existence of which we are a part. Throughout the fall our attention was largely focused on the political game in Washington, followed by the holidays. But now we are not so distracted, except the weather has been so very strange. Many people have reported that daffodils and other early spring flowers have already started, months early. What are the chances they will bloom on schedule? This is quite spooky, to say the least. I think this year we may see even more direct evidence that seemingly minor changes in the climate can cause large changes in our own back yards.

At the annual all church retreat (described in more detail below), it was very clear that the environment and more specifically global warming is on everybody's mind. The topic was brought up repeatedly. As many of you know, we have been considering participating in the Green Sanctuary movement for some time now. Lots of people are interested in helping and many are even interested in organizing specific projects to improve our environment. However, formal certification for the Green Sanctuary movement requires a unified plan and documentation, and nobody has stepped up to take responsibility for that one piece. It does not make sense to hold up real work for lack of an over arching plan, so we will proceed on a multitude of little projects (such as the recycling dumpster - Thanks Chris!), at the risk of having difficulty claiming official Green Sanctuary status at a later date.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call me at 412.654.7529 or drop a note to president@esuuc.org .

Caring and Sharing

Sympathy is extended to the Noble family upon the death of Andrea's father in Austria. Healing thoughts go out to Maureen McHugh's mother who has been experiencing health problems. Healing thoughts also go to Frank Nemeth as he recovers from a debilitating accident.

Thank You from Sue Mallick:

Dear Friends, What a wonderful celebration for ESUUC's 40th anniversary. It was good to see you all again and feel the vitality and caring of your community. I'm glad I was part of it for 10 years. Love, Sue Mallick

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

ESUUC Kids Helping Other Kids

We are continuing to work on our Service Project for this year. We are making blankets to donate to Project Linus, who in turn gives them to kids ages 0 to 18 who are seriously ill or have gone through traumatic experiences. The blankets we are making are fleece. We have fleece, (can always use more . . .), but need to have some prep work done before Service Project Sundays so that even our youngest members can help with the process. What we need is to have at least some of the fleece cut to size, and then to have 6 inch long 1 inch apart fringe cut all along the outside. We are taking two complementary pieces of fleece and tying them together with the fringe to form our blankets. As far as sizes go, Project Linus will accept all size blankets. It is important however, to remember not to count the fringe when measuring a blanket. Thus 6 inches of fringe on each side reduces the width or length of a finished blanket by 12 inches. My suggestion is to cut two yard pieces of fleece, which are likely to be about 60 inches wide, which will give us a finished blanket about 60 inches by 48 inches.

Our next service project Sunday is Feb. 25. If you have a little time between now and then and could help get some of the cutting done, we would truly appreciate it. These kids are fast at tying and we want to keep them busy!

We turned in the blankets we have made since the beginning of the year and got a note back from Bridgette Jendrey, who is the Chapter Coordinator for the Linus Project in Westmoreland County. Here is what she said:

"Just wanted to let you know that I went to Pat Catan's yesterday and picked up the blankets from ESUUC. They're terrific! Very nicely done. They will be perfect for older kids. A lot of time the older kids get left behind when it comes to PL blankets. Everyone likes to make baby blankets and blankets for little ones. Thank you so much! Tell the kids they did a fantastic job. -- Bridgette"

The All-Church Annual Retreat

The theme of this year's All Church Retreat was "Epiphany" - letting our light shine forward. We started with a presentation and discussion of "managing polarities". How do we find the right balance between conflicting ideas: tradition vs. change or growth vs. stability, etc. The point is that we want to balance the conflicting benefits of both sides of the polarity, while minimizing the negatives from either. It sort of felt

to me like remedial yin-yang for Westerners. We paid particular attention to balancing between "inreach" (serving our members) vs "outreach" (serving the broader community).

This was followed by an updated version of the "dot exercise", where we brainstormed about new projects that we might take on as a congregation, and then gave everyone an opportunity to express their priorities. You can join in by adding your initials (and ideas) to the lists posted in the Sanctuary. Put your initials next to the projects that you think we (somebody else) should do, circled if you are willing to help and circled twice if you are willing to help coordinate. In the past we have done very well on the projects that people volunteer to coordinate.

Dan Begg gave a quick introduction to the Green Sanctuary movement, which was followed by a very stimulating lunch discussion. Many people are interested in various environmental projects. It is clear that the best approach is to "divide and conquer", by forming smaller groups to focus on specific environmental projects. This makes the most efficient use of the efforts of a large number of energized people without imposing a lot of structure and organization. The difficulty is that we may not be able to adequately document our efforts for the official Green Sanctuary certification.

We wrapped up the day with an "imagine our future" exercise, where we all divided up into small groups to do artistic representations of our dreams about our future. Nearly everyone imagined a new or expanded "green" building with better community and Religious Education space. Other neat ideas included owning the land behind us, and a lot of emphasis on what we do and how we do it.

I want to thank everyone who participated, either by contributing their time and ideas or who helped to organize and host the retreat. --- Matt Mathis

Global Connections Update

Transylvania-our partner congregation in Kopec, Romania (Transylvania) celebrated Christmas in an extra special way, with gifts purchased by ESUUC and our sister church in this partnership, Sunnyhill. During the traditional Christmas service (this year held in the Kopec rest home some of us visited last summer) each member of the congregation received a bag of groceries and treats distributed by partner Pastor Alpar Kiss. Here is a photo of this meaningful occasion.



Uganda- Those of you who have supported the African Rural Schools Foundation will be extremely pleased to learn that your contributions and purchases have helped to buy three acres of land upon which to build a new school facility in the countryside! The brick making and building will begin immediately. Villagers will help with the project. By June we hope to have enough money to purchase a final 2 acres for this school.

Dr. Waun (and possibly other volunteers) will be going to Uganda next January to dedicate the new facilities and to help at the school. If you are interested in going as a volunteer on this trip, please contact Dr. Waun revmom@pitt.edu . Dates are January 28-February 13, 2008. The cost will be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$2000, including transportation.



Ugandan Crafts Half Price Sale- There are still a number of Ugandan crafts available at the back of the sanctuary, including a great selection of tatami purses. All the Ugandan craft items are now HALF PRICE. There is a beautiful handmade baby quilt that is marked down to \$45. All proceeds support 100%, the African Rural Schools Foundation. Thank you!

Buy Scrip – “Cash and Carry” or Place Orders

The CoA scrip program has raised \$370 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>

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!

Memorial Gifts Book – Your Name Could Be Added

Did you know that East Suburban UUC has a special book located in the foyer that records gifts to the church made in memory of loved ones? In the past these contributions have been offered to help the church with some major purchases such as the sanctuary chairs and the tapestry.

Now we have opportunities to support the purchase of a new piano as well as the commissioning of an artist to render a chalice design on our big front window. Both of these projects are perfect for honoring loved ones in a beautiful way. If you are making this type of donation, please include a note with your check as to which project you are supporting, along with your name and the loved one(s) you are memorializing. Our calligrapher will then enter the names into our Memorial Book. Thank you.

Paypal Update

We recently enhanced the church's web site to allow for donations, pledge payments, etc. to be made online via "PayPal." Now that we've trialed the service for a couple of months, we've decided to discontinue the PayPal option. The good news: we've experienced a higher level of online donations than we'd originally anticipated. The bad news: this is actually working against us.

Other than providing a bit more convenience for the individual making the donation, PayPal is of little benefit to ESUUC. Given our already tight budget, PayPal's fee structure is simply too high. For example, a \$500 donation results in fees to PayPal of nearly \$15. I can think of at least a dozen better ways that ESUUC/African Rural Schools Foundation (ARSF) could spend that \$15. Worse yet, it still takes several days to transfer money from the PayPal holding account into the church's checking account. Finally, without upgrading to a more expensive level of PayPal, we're currently limited to transferring a maximum of \$500/month from PayPal into our checking account. This limitation is unnecessarily restricting our cash flow.

In the future, we may elect to reinstate the PayPal option, but only if our pledge level improves to the point where such an option would be feasible. (The separate ARSF web site will continue to support ad hoc donations from the external online community.) In the meantime...keep the good old checks (and cash) coming.

Thank you for your financial support!
Chris Priano
Finance Committee Chair

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 .

Wheel of the Year: Imbolc/Feast of Brigid/Candlemas

Join us for the next Wheel of the Year celebration on **February 2, at 6:30 pm**, for a potluck dinner and ritual. This is a time of thanks, creativity, poetry and well wishes for this year. The Goddess Brigid/Brigit is the patroness of bards, poets, smiths and healers favoring them with Her gifts, skills and wisdom. - the bard and poet, the sparks if inspiration; the smith, the spark of the glowing forge; and the healer, the spark of energy and balance. She was the only Celtic pagan Goddess to be sainted by the church as the pagans of Ireland have always refused to let go of St. Brigid. Honoring the sacred mother, we get rid of old habits and start fresh anew. Bring a dish and beverage to share, drums and a positive light heart as we start the wheel of 2007. Please contact Kate Begg at nikitazeema@comcast.net or Leona Dunnnett at ldunnnett@gmail.com if you have any questions.

"Coming Out of Hiding" Workshop

East Liberty Presbyterian Church announces a day-long workshop called Coming Out of Hiding, on **February 3, 9 am - 3:30 pm**. They have planned a festive day for the GLBT community in honor of Groundhogs Day. For a flyer, see the ESUUC website (www.esuuc.org) or check the church foyer.

It seems that if Punxatawny Phil can come out and look at his shadow, so can we. They are offering a day full of spiritual disciplines from deep prayer to playful art plus news of other spiritual and social resources for GLBT seekers, families, and friends.

Best of all, there will be free, official, homemade Punxatawny Phil cookies for everyone who comes. In case you can't open the file, here's the number to call to register: 412-441-3800 x 22.

Join the Choir

Join the Choir on **February 4** for their next rehearsal (**9:30 am**) and performance (**during Service**). All are welcome! Contact Brian Ogle if you have any questions.

Thursday Book Club

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

February 8

March 1

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.

Drumming News

Saturday, **February 17 at 5:00 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, **February 18 at 7:30 pm** - Groove and Meditate 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

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

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

Mar 4	George Ratliff
Mar 11	Bob and Jean Robl
Mar 18	Kathy and Lew Ruffing
Mar 25	Michael and Tracy Safran

RE Class Schedule

Nursery:	Day	Teacher
	Jan 28	Pancake Breakfast for all - No care provider today
	Feb 4	Kim Katilius
	11	Maria Luczkow
	18	Kim Katilius
	25	Mary Warwick

Elementary:	Day	Class Description	Teacher
	Jan 28	Pancake Breakfast for all - No RE Program Today	
	Feb 4	NO Children's Chapel today; NO RE program/Nursery today	
	11	John the Baptist	Kate Zingarelli
	18	The Temptations of Jesus	Mary Kukura-Straw
	25	Service Project Sunday	

Middle:	Day	Class Description	Teacher
	Jan 28	Pancake Breakfast for all - No RE Program Today	
	Feb 4	NO Children's Chapel today; NO RE program/Nursery today	
	11	Hinduism	Gerard Katilius
	18	Buddhism	Karen Katilius
	25	Service Project Sunday	

Coming of Age:	Day	Class Description	Teacher
	Jan 28	Pancake Breakfast for all - No RE Program Today	
	Feb 4	Offsite for visit with Taoist practitioner	
	11	Earth-based religions	Laurie Montgomery
	18	Earth-based religions	Kate Codd-Palmer
	25	Service Project Sunday	

Youth Group

Youth Group meetings (all are **Sunday evenings**, from **7-9 pm**): **February 11, 25**

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

Sun Feb 4, 2007

12pm [Program Committee meeting](#)

Thu Feb 8, 2007

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

7:30pm [ESUUC Bookclub](#)

Sat Feb 10, 2007

[CoA Youth: Truffle-making w/Mrs. Bailey](#)

Sun Feb 11, 2007

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

7pm [Youth Group](#)

Sat Feb 17, 2007

5pm [Family Drumming](#)

Sun Feb 18, 2007

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

11pm [Newsletter Deadline](#)

Sun Feb 25, 2007

12pm [COC Meeting After church](#)

7pm [Youth Group](#)

Thu Mar 1, 2007

7:30pm [ESUUC Bookclub](#)

Thu Mar 8, 2007

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

Sun Mar 11, 2007

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

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

March 2007 newsletter deadline: **Sunday, February 18**

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.