

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 44 No. 9

April 2007

Editor: Marianne Jew
newsletter@esuuc.org

ESUUC Sunday Services

Sunday, April 1, 10:30am - *"Rising to a New Level"* - On this April Fool's Day we will have some fun looking at numbers and while we're at it, we will play the ESUUC version of *"Who Wants to be a Millionaire?"*—no fooling! **Dr. Waun** will lead the service.

Sunday, April 8, 10:30am - Easter Sunday-The season of Easter is an appropriate time to look again at the stories and metaphors that give meaning to the life and death of Jesus. What could this mean to UUs? **Dr. Waun's** presentation *"Telling the Story of Jesus for Today"* draws ideas from Marcus Borg's work on the "earlier understandings" vs. the "emerging understandings" of Easter, the early church and current religious struggles in the U.S. All children will stay in the sanctuary with the adults today.

Sunday, April 15, 10:30am – *"One form of Duality"* - **Pam Alexander**, local artist, author, speaker, dream interpretation instructor and Shake Your Soul leader, will speak about how we have been taught to see life as though there were two sides to most things... good vs bad, or good vs. evil, heaven and hell, positive and negative, us vs them, win-lose, etc. The "higher truth" suggests that maybe this isn't true. If we can approach life without the judgement that creates duality then we can relax into the moment and experience it without so much fear and resistance. Hopefully, this will lead us into a place of unity consciousness and peace.

Sunday, April 22, 10:30am – "Earth Day" - **Andrew Weber** will explore a religious meaning of Earth Day and how we can see the Divine in all existence. Andrew is training to be a UU Minister and is a member of Allegheny Church. He was a very important member of our group who traveled to Romania and Hungary last summer. He spoke excellent Hungarian, because he had spent a lot of time there working with Habitat for Humanity.

Sunday, April 29, 10:30am – *"Amarillis"* - Wear your dancing shoes as we learn how traditional music and dance build community in the spirit of our 7th principle. **Donna Isaac** and **Allison Thompson** from *"Amarillis"* will be here to entertain and teach a dance or two. They play fiddle and concertina, respectively, in an authentic old time Appalachian style.

Sunday, May 6, 10:30am - **Dr. Waun** will speak on *"Faith Without Certainty"* –from the book by the same name by UU professor **Dr. Paul Rasor**. As UUs, we have different ways of speaking about "faith" and "beliefs" because we have no set creed or required statement of faith to belong to our churches. Dr.

Rasor will be coming to Pittsburgh in November as part of a cluster event, and this program will help to prepare us for his visit.



Pastor's Column: Breaking Free

by Rev. Renee Waun

I recently attended a weekend seminar with renowned author/lecturer Marcus Borg who had heard a story which he calls "The Parable of the Cows". A farmer had some cows in his pasture which was surrounded by a single strand of wire. One day a visitor stopped and asked the farmer how he was able to keep the cows contained with something so thin and small. The farmer explained that years ago, the wire had an electric charge that would shock the cows if they touched it. After a few weeks, the charge dissipated, but the cows didn't know this. They simply remembered being shocked by the wire, and so they never went within 10 feet of it again.

Borg's point was that the cows didn't even know they were being confined by something that had no power over them, and so it would have been really easy for them to rise up and break free. But they were the herd that was content to stay where they were.

In this month of April—in which we observe Passover and Easter—we have opportunities to reflect again on the metaphors of "freedom from bondage" and "breaking free from the tomb".....whatever it is in our personal life or in the life of our "herd" that keeps us from expanding and growing and feeling free.

It could be a worthy exercise, as spring bursts forth around us this year, to test again the wires that surround our pastures and think outside the herd. Freedom! Freedom to think and to believe and to serve. Why.....that sounds almost like something a UU might say!



mUUsings from the President

by Matt Mathis

Last month was a hard month for us. Marilyn Goodis, Susan's mom, passed away while under hospice care at our house. Jesse and Marilyn had moved in with us during October, when they came here for Cancer treatment at Magee Woman's hospital. Although the treatment seemed to be going well, there were some unforeseen complications. All of Marilyn's immediate family was present at the end, including Susan, her three brothers and several grandchildren. The last few weeks were very much about peace and the celebration of the life of this wonderful woman, and the family that she raised and nurtured. Susan and I want to thank everyone for their comfort and support during these difficult times.

Leona and I chaperoned several of our youth at the "SACCON", the "Social ACTION CONference" for a weekend in Cleveland Ohio. It was absolutely stunning to see our youth in action. We are growing a whole crop of future troublemakers, or I mean visionary social activists - smart thoughtful kids that think about

right and wrong without preconceived ideas about the way things should be or what they can and can not do. This CON (as are all CONs) was run by and for the youth. It was awesome to watch, and I highly recommend volunteering to chaperone a future CON if you need to have your UU batteries recharged. I exaggerate when I say chaperone, because except a few people involved in the night patrol, the adults did almost nothing except talk among ourselves while we watched and listened to the youth in action.

It is time to turn our attention to our own finances here at ESUUC. I think of our congregation in terms of shared effort to reach common goals. By pooling our resources: Time, Talent and Treasure we can accomplish far more than we can accomplish as individuals. One other thing that we learned from the other adults at the SACCON is that for a small congregation we are disproportionately more active than many other congregations that are 10 times our size. We are already making a big difference at many levels: the environment, our international sponsorship in Transylvania and Uganda, Social Action in Murrysville and the greater Pittsburgh area and our support of all Unitarian Universalists everywhere through the UUA and the OMD. We are providing the beacon and haven of our Mission statement. I hope everyone has noticed how much energy we have in our activities. We really need to be sure that we support ourselves financially, such that we can keep our excitement focused on making the world a better place for all of us.

Please give generously. Please help us do all that we can do for your world.

Thank you,
Matt Mathis

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

Caring and Sharing

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

Rayna Faigen in the News!

Check out the Pittsburgh Post Gazette article and photo about a drama group that Rayna Faigen is in:
<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/07055/764691-85.stm>

Rising to the Top!

Every spring our congregation looks ahead to ensure that financial resources will be in place for the work of ministry and mission in the coming year. Budget numbers are projected, pledge cards are prepared and special events are put on the calendar; it is called the annual canvass.

This year there are two delightful ways that you can have fun while learning about the visions and goals we have for the next fiscal year.

TWO EVENTS:

On Friday, April 13 at 7:30pm at ESUUC, we will be holding a mock **Inner Beauty Pageant** featuring our Coming of Age youth. You'll be dazzled by their talent and social awareness! And then, join us for snacks and beverages (BYOB). All ages are welcome to attend, and guests are welcome.

The other event is an adults only **Wine and Cheese Party** on Saturday, April 21 at 7:30pm at the Warwick home, 4200 Lochner Ct. in Murrysville. At both of these events you will have an opportunity to fill out pledge cards and discuss church finances with members of the Canvass committee.

We will be scheduling home visits for those who are unable to attend either one of these events, or for those who would appreciate talking about the canvas in a more personal way.

Please help us to “rise to a new level” this year by participating generously in our canvas campaign.

NEW ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT

On this year’s Pledge Form you will be asked to **SIGN AND RETURN THE FORM WHETHER OR NOT YOU MAKE A PLEDGE**. This new requirement will help us to update our membership list every year. Without your signed pledge form, your membership status will be changed to “Friend” for the coming year.

CoA Service Project

As part of the Coming of Age year, the youth have chosen as their service project to prepare and serve a meal to people living with HIV and their families at the Shepard Wellness Community on Friday May 4, 2007. They will be helping to prep for the meal on **Thursday May 3, 2007** from **6-8 pm** and then making and serving the meal **Friday May 4, 2007** from **5-9 pm**. Our church is sponsoring the meal, which means that in addition to the volunteer time we are picking up the cost of the meal, which is \$350. The youth are donating some of their money earned through fundraising efforts this year and the remainder of the money will be supported through private donations. If you would like to financially support this church effort you can make a check out to Shepherd Wellness Community and give to Kate Codd-Palmer. Information about the Shepherd Wellness Community founded in 1987 can be found at www.swconline.org.

“Shepherd Wellness Community is a safe, compassionate Community empowering people affected by HIV/AIDS to live with dignity in the spirit of wellness.”

New Digital Piano/Old Piano Available

Our new digital piano is here! Thank you to all who have contributed to the Piano Fund. We will continue to pay for the piano via the Spring Rummage Sale (described later in this newsletter).

We're looking for a home for our old church piano. If you know anyone who would be interested in hauling away a piano that is working but in need of repair, please have them contact Cathy (724) 387-1155 or treasurer@esuuc.org. The piano plays and holds a tune, but the soundboard is cracked.

“Right Stuff” Needed at Rummage Sale

There's spring -- and spring cleaning -- in the air! We all have things we don't use any more, but that are too nice or too useful to toss in the trash. Why not donate yours to this Spring's ESUUC Rummage Sale? We want toys, small (working) appliances, and other household items in good condition. We will also accept young children's clothing, bagged by sizes. (No other clothes, please.) The Coming of Age class and the Youth Group will run a book sale at the same time, so any volumes you want to pass on are welcome too. We also need bags and boxes.

The sale is set for **Saturday, May 19, 7 am-noon** at the church. Items will be collected at the church the week prior, watch for more information about times and dates. Donors will receive receipts for tax purposes. Want to help out, either with collection or with the sale? Get in touch!

The rummage sale is a great chance to clear out your spring-cleaning goodies, to help raise funds to pay off our lovely new piano, and to honor the Seventh Principle, all at the same time. What more could you want? For more information, or to volunteer, contact Cathy Serventi at treasurer@esuuc.org or at (724)387-1155.

Looking For an Editor

Interested in a fun job that keeps you informed of all the goings-on at ESUUC? Have the ability to use MS Word? If so, we are looking for you! We have an opening for the Newsletter Editor position, to take over with the July/August issue of the monthly newsletter. Training and assistance will be provided. Contact Marianne (newsletter@esuuc.org) or one of the Board members if you are interested.

"Thank You" for Buying Scrip

Thank you to all who have purchased scrip: you have raised over \$500, of which \$125 has gone to general congregational funds and the remainder to our Coming of Age program!

Please continue to buy Giant Eagle, Gasoline, and Gift Cards (including Panera) - and help fundraise for both the Coming of Age program and the general Congregation 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 (at the pump).

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

We received our first check for the paper that we've been recycling in the big bin in the church parking lot! 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.

If you have any questions, please leave a message for Chris Priano (724-327-5872).

Organic Produce

If you are interested in joining a local Community Supported Agriculture farm, TIME IS SHORT to sign up for delivery of organic produce from Kretschmann Farm. Go to <http://www.KretschmannFarm.com> to print a sign-up sheet and mail it ASAP!

Lost Black Coat

A woman's black quilted coat was missing after the March 18th service - if anyone took it by mistake, please let me know (secretary@esuuc.org) and I'll contact its owner.

Join the Choir

Join the Choir on **April 1** for their next rehearsal (**9:30 am**) and performance (**during Service**). All are welcome! Contact Brian Ogle if you have any questions.

Landscaping Committee "Debut" Meeting

The Landscaping Committee "Debut" Meeting will be held on **April 1, 12:00 noon**. We will discuss upcoming projects, goals, dreams and wishes and a possible new direction for the committee: to wit, including more ecology oriented activities.

If you enjoy gardening (or think you might), or if you want to participate in, or help plan other nature-related activities please plan to attend.

-Laurie Montgomery

Montgomery3900@comcast.net

Thursday Book Club

The selection for the April meeting is "Freakonomics" by Stephen J. Levitt and Steven D. Dubner. We'll be meeting at the Penn Center Panera (near Sears) on **Thursday, April 5 at 7:30 pm**.

If you need a ride (especially with the snow), 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 and we'll add you. The book club is open to anyone who is interested. Books generally alternate between fiction and non-fiction.

Musical Jam Session

A BRAND NEW musical opportunity for everyone who likes to play: OPEN GROUP JAM. **Sunday, April 7 at 7:30 pm**. Bring whatever you play - electric and/or acoustic and let's see what happens. The only required skill is positive intention. This is vague - to be sure. It will define itself as time goes on based on the interests of the participants.

Inner Beauty Pageant

Friday, April 13, 7:30 pm – see newsletter article "Rising to the Top" for details; all ages and guests are welcome.

Generosity Sunday

Generosity Sunday, sponsored by the Network of Spiritual Progressives, is a day of remembrance, transformation, abundance, and commitment to generosity, not domination, as the path to peace. Unitarian Universalists United for Faith in Action are co-sponsoring a talk by Rabbi Arthur Waskow, author and founder of the Shalom Peace Center. The talk will be held at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 5700 Forbes Avenue (two doors down from the Jewish Community Center), Squirrel Hill on April 15 at 2:00.

Rabbi Waskow will discuss the Global Marshall Plan. This plan has been proposed by the Network of Spiritual Progressives as a way to achieve a lasting peace. 1% to 5% of the U.S. gross domestic product would be used each year for the next twenty years to end global and domestic poverty and to repair the environment.

Women's Health & Environment Conference

There will be a Women's Health and Environment conference in Pittsburgh on **Friday, April 20**. Registration is free and speakers include Teresa Heinz and Fran Drescher. For more info, see: <http://www.womenshealthpittsburgh.org/>

Wine & Cheese Party

Saturday, April 21 at 7:30 pm - see newsletter article "Rising to the Top" for details; adults only.

Drumming News

Saturday, April 21 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, April 22 at 7:30 pm – Groove and Meditate Drumming Circle: NOW EVERY 3RD SUNDAY - 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

Green Sanctuary Meeting/Potluck

Are you helping to leave the world a better place than you found it? As UUs, our 7th Principle guides us to toward "respect for the interdependent web of all existence". There are many ways we can strive to affirm the 7th Principle in our lives. Many things in our personal lives, from light bulbs in our homes, to the cars we drive, and the foods we eat can be part of the conversation about how we can live more lightly on the Earth. Please join us **after the service on Sunday, April 22** for an Earth Day Potluck lunch as we begin the conversation. Green Sanctuary Exploratory Committee members will be on hand to explain the Green Sanctuary movement and the process for "Becoming a Green Sanctuary".

Summer Institute: Ohio-Meadville District

Make plans now to attend Summer Institute!

Sunday, July 15th through Saturday, July 21st 2007

Kenyon College, Gambier Ohio

Theme: **The Dharma of Living: The Ongoing Prescription for Happiness**

Speaker: Ven. Shih Ying-Fa, Founder of Zen Society of Cleveland

More info: www.omdsi.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 .

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

Apr 1	David Schwartz
Apr 8	Sharing Sunday
Apr 15	Cathy Serventi and Gene Wilson
Apr 22	Mary Warwick
Apr 29	Kate and Mark Zingarelli

May 6	Merritt and Tom Bailey
May 13	Kate and Dan Begg
May 20	Jenifer Cheripka
May 27	Sharing Sunday

RE Class Schedule

Nursery:	Day	Teacher
	Apr 1	Marianne Jew
	8	Easter – no Care Provider today
	15	Maria Luczkow
	22	TBD
	29	TBD

Elementary:	Day	Class Description	Teacher
	Apr 1	Children's Chapel	Kate Codd-Palmer
	8	Easter – no RE Classes today	
	15	The Crucifixion of Jesus	TBD
	22	Service Project Sunday	TBD
	29	Arts & Crafts or continuation of Service Project	Marianne Jew

Middle:	Day	Class Description	Teacher
	Apr 1	Children's Chapel	Kate Codd-Palmer
	8	Easter – no RE Classes today	
	15	Dahomey People of Africa	TBD
	22	Service Project Sunday	TBD
	29	Arts & Crafts or continuation of Service Project	Marianne Jew

Coming of Age:	Day	Class Description	Teacher
	Apr 1	Children's Chapel	Kate Codd-Palmer
	8	Easter – no RE Classes today	
	15	Create visual representation of faith statements, decorative tile, mantles	TBD
	22	Heritage trip to Boston	n/a
	29	Arts & Crafts or continuation of Service Project	Marianne Jew

Youth Group

Youth Group meetings (2nd and 4th Sundays each month, from 7-9 pm): **April 8, 22**
 This will be a steady schedule until further notice. Please contact Leona Dunnett 724-327-3841 (ldunnett@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns.

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

For immediate access to the most up-to-date information on ESUUC events, go directly to:
<http://www.esuuc.org/calendar.htm>

Calendar

Sat Mar 31, 2007

7:30pm [OSTARA Celebration](#)

Sun Apr 1, 2007

9:30am [Choir Rehearsal for today's Service](#)

10:30am [Annual Canvass Kick-Off](#)

12pm [Landscaping Committee Debut Meeting](#)

8pm [* Spirit Progress Radio is an online streamed audio radio program](#) (and every Sunday at 8pm)

Thu Apr 5, 2007

7:30pm [Board Meeting](#)

7:30pm [ESUUC Bookclub](#)

Sat Apr 7, 2007

7:30pm [Musical Jam Session](#)

Sun Apr 8, 2007

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

7pm [Youth Group](#)

Thu Apr 12, 2007

7pm [RE Meeting](#)

Fri Apr 13, 2007

7:30pm ["Inner Beauty" Pageant/Canvass](#)

Sun Apr 15, 2007

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

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

11pm [Newsletter Deadline](#)

Thu Apr 19, 2007

[Coming of Age Trip](#)

Fri Apr 20, 2007

[Coming of Age Trip](#)

Sat Apr 21, 2007

[Coming of Age Trip](#)

[... OMD District Conference](#)

5pm [Family Drumming](#)

7:30pm [Wine & Cheese Party/Canvass](#)

Sun Apr 22, 2007

[Coming of Age Trip](#)

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

11:30am [Green Sanctuary Potluck Lunch meeting](#)

7pm [Youth Group](#)

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

Sun Apr 29, 2007

10:30am [Folk Music with Amarilis](#)

Thu May 3, 2007

7:30pm [ESUUC Bookclub](#)

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 (caring@esuuc.org)	Pastoral Care – Maria Luczkow
Committee on Ministry – open	Religious Education – Kate Zingarelli
Community – Kate Codd-Palmer	Signs and Symbols – Leona Dunnett
Drumming – Jen Trout-Osborne (drumming@esuuc.org)	Social Enrichment – open
Finance – Chris Priano	Sunday Programs/Celebrations – Mary Kukura-Straw
Landscaping – Laurie Montgomery	Welcoming Congregation – Matt Mathis

Newsletter Deadlines

May 2007 newsletter deadline: **Sunday, April 15**

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.