

# 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, 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.

**Sunday, May 13, 10:30am** – “*Materialism from an Anthropological Perspective*” - join **Cathy Serventi** and **Jenifer Trout Osborne** as they review Cultural Materialism, a theory articulated by Marvin Harris. Cultural Materialism predicts the structure of culture based on the method of extracting resources from the environment. This theory offers an alternative to Paternalism being the proverbial root of all evil. Enjoy a different perspective on gender politics to contemplate on Mother's Day.

**Sunday, May 20, 10:30 am** – “*Leo Strauss and the Neoconservatives*” -- **Glenn Klepac** will speak about Leo Strauss (1899-1973), a professor of political philosophy at the University of Chicago. Professor Strauss taught his students to revere the values of ancient Greek philosophy. Modern neoconservatives including several members of the Bush administration credit Professor Strauss for promoting devotion to country and for his criticisms of liberalism.

**Sunday, May 27, 10:30am** – “Chanting” - **Bill Dunham** offers a service of chanting to remember the sacrifice of those who have gone before us. This services promises to be very moving and meditative. It will include drums played quietly and reverently. Bill's energy and voice are sure to touch your heart and create a wondrous synergy between us all.

**Sunday, June 3, 10:30am**- **Dr. Waun and the Coming of Age class and sponsors** present an intergenerational service where we celebrate the completion of the two-year program for these amazing youth. During the service, the COA youth will offer their statements of faith and hear words of

encouragement from their parents and others as they end their time of preparation and begin “coming into their own” truth and life focus.



## *Pastor's Column: Checking our*

*by Rev. Renee Waun*

## *“Acceptance Barometer”*

Of COURSE we don't exclude anyone. Do we? We're Unitarian Universalists! We are open and accepting of all religious perspectives and beliefs within our congregation; except... well....can you think of anyone who might feel uncomfortable?

I can. Interestingly and ironically, it would be someone who openly reveres and follows Jesus.

As I chat with church members I am aware that there are folks (a lot of folks) who sought us out as a more rational alternative to the mainstream Christian church. Some have had a previous church experience that wounded them somehow and so they come here with painful memories and baggage from the past. This seems to be true—more often than not—for folks from a Roman Catholic background.

For people injured by the mainstream church, conventional Christian symbols, rituals and language make them cringe.

However, I have met other folks (a few folks) in our congregation who still love the basic truths of Jesus as the Religious Revolutionary who taught peace, justice and equality and compassion for all. They see him as deeply influencing the tenets of the Seven UU Principles that inform our values. These are some of the people in our congregation who quietly yearn for familiar church ritual, symbolism, language, hymnody and even theistic prayer.

I would like ideas from all of you as to how to help EVERYONE feel open and comfortable in our congregation. How can we be a group that lives up to what we say about being open and affirming to all persons, whether we are talking about religious beliefs, political views or moral questions and opinions, and how can we reflect this in our corporate life in a way that honors us all?

I think this is really important. I would like to think that our “Acceptance Barometer” reflects what we SAY we promote, in order for us to be credible and authentic. I welcome your comments.



## *mUUsings from the President*

*by Matt Mathis*

I spent last weekend with our Coming of Age class on their Boston heritage trip. Although the trip included many of the usual Americana stops along the "freedom trail" - the U.S.S. Constitution and Faneuil Hall - the high points were definitely at the Unitarian Universalist Association headquarters. We happened to pick the weekend that the UUA board was meeting, so all of the regular public spaces were in use. So we had a

behind the scenes tour of the offices, where we met many of the people who actually keep the UUA running. But best of all we met Bill Sinkford, the precedent of the UUA. He answered questions, and described coming to ESUUC to speak at the dedication of our new building.

It is interesting to note that we have nearly doubled our membership and quadrupled our Religious Education classes since that dedication! One of our other stops was the office of congregational giving, which processes pledges from congregations to the UUA. They printed our membership records going back over 25 years.

At the time I write this we are at about the midpoint of our own pledge and budget processes. Although the early steps of both processes proceed concurrently, the latter steps are sequential. We need to know how much you have pledged to us before we can draft our budget. By the time you read this, the main pledge drive will be completed. The draft budget will be presented at the June 3rd town meeting, and the final budget voted on at the annual meeting on June 9th. Please be sure that your all of ideas are included in the budget by giving them to Cathy Serventi or me or one of the other officers.

Please feel free to call me at 412.654.7529 or drop a note to me at [mathis@psc.edu](mailto:mathis@psc.edu) or [president@esuuc.org](mailto:president@esuuc.org)

### *Caring and Sharing*

If anyone has any news that they want to share, please send it to [newsletter@esuuc.org](mailto:newsletter@esuuc.org)

### *Inner Beauty Pageant*

In April, we were treated to a fun and entertaining evening as we got to know the Coming of Age youth during the "Inner Beauty Pageant", part of this year's Canvass. We enjoyed their creative talents, as well as Mary Warwick's humor as she MC'd the 'pageant'. Thank you to Mary and to the CoA youth!

### *Our Next Editor*

Thank you to Mary Warwick, who has volunteered to take over as the Newsletter editor starting with the July/Aug issue! (Mary, are we seeing a trend here ... ?)

### *Spring Rummage Sale*

Volunteers and "Stuff" needed for May 19 Rummage Sale – see details later in Newsletter

### *Scrip Cards Available*

Thank you to all who have purchased scrip: you have raised almost \$600, of which \$150 has gone to general congregational funds and the remainder to our Coming of Age program!

We now have cards for Lowe's (\$25) and Starbuck's (\$10), as well as Giant Eagle/GetGo (\$100, \$25), Sunoco (\$50), and Panera (\$10). Keep buying cards at church and help fundraise for both the Coming of Age program and the general Congregation at the same time.

You will also have a special opportunity in May to pre-order any cards that the program offers, which would make great wedding and graduation gifts. Details will be announced at church and via the weekly e-blasts and the ESUUC website.

Contact Marianne (email [scrip@esuuc.org](mailto: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).

## *Uganda Update: Hanan's Scary Day*

by Renee Waun

Our Ugandan friend Hanan Bulime who is the director of the African Rural Schools Foundation had a horrendous experience last month. He was using the ATM card that I had sent him from my bank to withdraw funds from a Kampala bank to pay some bills for the school when the bank security guards arrested him. The card that he was using had my signature on it and so they thought he had stolen it.

Hanan ended up in the police station trying to explain that he did indeed have permission from me to use the card. He asked the police to telephone me at home to clear this up, which they tried to do. Unfortunately, it was 8:15 on a Friday morning and the phone rang just as I was going out the door to do my morning walk. (Thirty seconds later and I wouldn't have been there to answer it!)

I could barely hear the voice on the other end, and I could hardly understand what it was saying. A man was shouting, "We are paleeseh. Do you know paleeseh? Do you know paleeseh?" (He was trying to say "police".) I confessed I didn't know what he was talking about, and I was going to hang up (thinking it might be a telemarketer from some foreign country). It never occurred to me that I was talking to the Ugandan police! Then he said the name "Hanan Bulime."

Well, that got my attention. The police officer told me they'd caught him with my ATM card. Did he have permission to use my card? "Yes, yes"! I said. "That's my friend".

I tried my best to clear things up, but even so, Hanan had to return the next day by 10am with 60,000 shillings as a fine (about \$40—almost a month's salary for him) and they also destroyed the ATM card.

Well, it took some scrambling around, but the church was able to solve the problem by getting a new ATM card through our bank, with Hanan's own name on it. He also has a letter that he will carry with him stating that we authorized him to use the card.

Hanan had never been arrested before and was quite shaken up by this ordeal. I was just grateful that I answered the phone that Friday because if I hadn't, Hanan may have sat in jail until the following Thursday, because I was going out of town. Whew. That was a close one!

## *Can UUs Be Known as "The Peace People"?*

Next November the Pittsburgh cluster of UUs, of which we are a part, will be hosting a major peace event, to help us understand the challenge of having a new "peace" identity.

Last December, Unitarian Universalists in the United States adopted peacemaking as a study/action issue. The denomination will consider its position towards violence over the next four years. **An antiwar stand would make it the fourth Protestant denomination to pursue conscientious objector status, joining the Quakers, Brethren and Mennonites.**

Historically, Unitarian Universalists have agreed with the theory and practice of "just war," or use of force in self-defense to preserve the life of another person. However, they have also supported peace and disarmament in over eighty resolutions since the 1961 merger.

According to the Unitarian Universalist Association Web site: "We call on the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, the Mahatma Mohandas K. Gandhi, the Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama, and the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Our principles are models for peacemaking yet we act as if violence is more effective than nonviolence in certain situations. As a religious denomination, we need to clarify our position and apply our covenant to affirm and promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all."

At this summer's General Assembly, this issue will be addressed. We hope that the November cluster event will be timely and formative as we sort all this out. Watch for details!

### *Sunday Book Club*

The first meeting will be **April 29 at 7:30 pm** at Susan Goodis's home. The book will be "Wicked" by Gregory McGuire. I do realize this is rather short notice, so come even if you are not able to read the entire book. We will have our usual lively conversation and an opportunity to select future books and dates to meet. Please send an e-mail to let me know who will be attending. For information about the Sunday evening book club, contact: SunBookClub@esuuc.org .

### *Musical Jam Session*

1st Sunday - **May 6 at 7:30 pm**. Bring all instruments and voices for an evolving spontaneous jam session. All levels of skill are welcome, as are interested observers.

### *Thursday Book Club*

We'll be meeting at the Penn Center Panera (near Sears) on the following **Thursdays at 7:30 pm**:

**May 3**

June 7

July 7

August (tbd)

(break)

October (tbd)

November (tbd)

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 and we'll add you. The book club is open to anyone who is interested. Books generally alternate between fiction and non-fiction.

## *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](http://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.”*

## *Sardis Road Clean Up*

**Saturday May 5, 2007** at **9 am** will be the bi-annual clean up of ESUUC's adopted section of Sardis Road. Church will supply the gloves, reflective vests and plastic bags.....we just need YOU! Think of it as a post-Earth Day gift to the planet. We will meet at church at 9 am. Thanks in advance for your help. If you have any questions, please contact Kate Codd-Palmer at 724-325-3903.

## *Make Stone Garden Containers*

**Saturday May 5, 2007** in the **afternoon** you are invited to make “tufa” stone garden containers at Laurie Montgomery’s house. When planted with tiny alpine perennials these would make a valuable donation to the ESUUC yard sale planned for May 19<sup>th</sup>. Please RSVP to [montgomery3900@comcast.net](mailto:montgomery3900@comcast.net) to get directions. There will be a small fee for materials.

## *Join the Choir*

Join the Choir on **May 6** for their next rehearsal (**9:30 am**) and performance (**during Service**). All are welcome! Contact Brian Ogle if you have any questions.

## *Spring Rummage Sale*

Spring at last -- which means, it's time for spring cleaning! We all have things we don't use any more, but that are still too nice or useful to toss in the trash. Please donate yours to this spring's ESUUC Rummage Sale! We need toys, small (working) appliances, and other household items in good condition. We'll also accept young children's clothes, bagged by sizes. (No other clothes, please.) COA class and the youth group will run a book sale at the same time, so any volumes you want to pass on will also be welcome. We need boxes and bags too.

The sale is set for **Saturday, May 19, 7 am-noon** at the church. Items will be collected at the church Monday-Friday (May 14-18) 6:30-8:30 p.m., and Thursday 9a.m.-noon. Donors will receive receipts for tax purposes. Want to help out, either with collection or with the sale? We need volunteers for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evening, as well as for the sale itself. There will be a sign-up sheet in the church.

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. Now that's a bargain! For more information, contact Cathy Serventi at [treasurer@esuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@esuuc.org) or at (724)387-1155.



## *Drumming News*

Groove and Meditate Drumming Circle: NOW EVERY 3RD SUNDAY (May 20 at 7:30 pm). Drum, chant, meditate and groove with new and old friends as we relax and rejuvenate in the power of creating music together. No experience necessary and no skill required. Bring your drums or use ours. Why not give it a try?

Family Drumming Circle - No Family Drumming Circle for May! There just isn't enough time this month!!!

Any questions - contact Jen Trout Osborne at 412-608-2725 or [drumming@esuuc.org](mailto:drumming@esuuc.org)

## *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](http://www.omdsi.org)

## *Teen Book Club*

For more information, please contact Julia via email: [redirector@esuuc.org](mailto:redirector@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*

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

June 3	to be determined
June 10	Kate Codd-Palmer and Brien Palmer
June 17	Marylyn Devlin
June 24	Leona Dunnett

## *RE Class Schedule*

<b>Nursery:</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Teacher</b>
	May 6	Mary Warwick
	13	Maria Luczkow
	20	TBD
	27	Natalie Mendik

<b>Elementary:</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Class Description</b>	<b>Teacher</b>
	May 6	Children's Chapel	Marianne Jew
	13	Mary Magdalene	Gayle Pamerleau
	20	The God Samaritan	Kate Zingarelli
	27	Service Project Sunday	TBD

<b>Middle:</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Class Description</b>	<b>Teacher</b>
	May 6	Children's Chapel	Marianne Jew
	13	Shintoism	TBD
	20	God is Like Cosmic Evolution	Jen Trout-Osborne
	27	Service Project Sunday	TBD

<b>Coming of Age:</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Class Description</b>	<b>Teacher</b>
	May 6	Children's Chapel	Marianne Jew
	13	Work on Faith Statements & Mantles	TBD
	20	Work on Faith Statements & Mantles	Laurie Montgomery
	27	Service Project Sunday	TBD

## *Youth Group*

Youth Group meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays each month, from 7-9 pm): **May 13, 27**

This will be a steady schedule until further notice. Please contact Leona Dunnett 724-327-3841 ([ldunnett@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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*

Thu May 3, 2007

6pm [CoA Prep for service project](#)

7:30pm [ESUUC Bookclub](#)

Fri May 4, 2007

5pm [CoA Serve dinner](#)

Sat May 5, 2007

2pm [Make tufa containers to sell at ESUUC yard sale](#)

Sun May 6, 2007

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

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

8pm [\\* Spirit Progress Radio is an online streamed audio radio program](#)

Thu May 10, 2007

7:30pm [Board Meeting](#)

Sat May 12, 2007

6pm [Garlic Potluck \(Mathis/Goodis\)](#)

Sun May 13, 2007

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

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

7pm [Youth Group](#)

8pm [\\* Spirit Progress Radio is an online streamed audio radio program](#)

Mon May 14, 2007

6:30pm [Rummage Sale Drop-Off](#)

Tue May 15, 2007

6:30pm [Rummage Sale Drop-Off](#)

Wed May 16, 2007

6:30pm [Rummage Sale Drop-Off](#)

Thu May 17, 2007

9am [Rummage Sale Drop-off](#)

6:30pm [Rummage Sale Drop-Off](#)

Fri May 18, 2007

[Spring Con OMD YRUU](#)

6:30pm [Rummage Sale Drop-Off](#)

Sat May 19, 2007

[Spring Con OMD YRUU](#)

7am [Rummage Sale](#)

Sun May 20, 2007

[Spring Con OMD YRUU](#)

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

8pm \* [Spirit Progress Radio is an online streamed audio radio program](#)

11pm [Newsletter Deadline](#)

Fri May 25, 2007

[Relay for Life](#)

Sat May 26, 2007

[Relay for Life](#)

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

### *Newsletter Deadlines*

June 2007 newsletter deadline: **Sunday, May 20**

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@esuuc.org). No attachments please.