

# East Suburban Unitarian Universalist Church



Sunday Services - 10:30 AM  
Religious Education - 10:30 AM

Telephone  
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## ESUUC Sunday Services

**Sunday, March 2, 10:30 am** —“*A Tale of Two Christianities*”-- There are many Christians among our neighbors, families and friends. But the label of “Christian” has such a broad spectrum of meanings, we can’t possibly determine what a person believes until we engage them on some basic questions and issues. **Dr. Waun** will reflect on the idea (inspired by Marcus Borg) that there are two very different types of Christianity

**Sunday, March 9** – “*Our Unitarian U.S. Presidents*” -- Politicians who talk about our nation’s “Christian roots” often neglect to mention those founders who worshipped in a more freethinking tradition. **Brenda Shiring** will discuss two of the United States’s Unitarian founders – and presidents – Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, and their contributions to civil and religious liberty.

**Sunday, March 16, 10:30 am** – “*Where Have All the Pacifists Gone?*”— Merle Wenger, a frequent speaker at his Harrisonburg Unitarian Universalist Church in Virginia, will address the apparent lack of interest in organized war protest compared with the Vietnam War.

**Sunday, March 23, 10:30 am** – “*Easter: Keeping Love Alive*” —Easter is about the triumph of love. Sometimes we find ourselves in situations where it is really difficult to love the “other”, or where loving could lead to pain or sacrifice. It could happen with a family member, a spouse, a colleague, a child. What is required of us as we dig for the inner strength to keep love alive? Dr. Waun will share some of her insights. There will be a children’s Easter egg hunt after the service.

**Sunday, March 30, 10:30 am** – “*Dreams of Hope*”- GLBT Youth and Friends, including our own Rayna Faigen, will perform several skits concerning social issues. Discussion will follow. Matt Mathis and Susan Goodis will facilitate.

**Sunday, April 6, 10:30 am** – “*Waiting to Touch Down in the Land of Oz*” — Did you ever have the feeling that you are in a situation—like Dorothy was—spinning around and around in her house, seeing scary things out of the window and wondering when it will all come back to the safe place you always knew it was? Dr. Waun will help us to hang on and ride it out.



## Pastor’s Column: *The Daffodils Are Coming* by Rev. Renee Waun

Even now, as winter lingers and the cold seems slow to move aside for spring, we know there is the promise of new life coming. My snowdrops are already blooming! And last week, when I had the fun of spending a day in Amsterdam there were daffodils blooming everywhere. Of course, people were saying the blooms were coming on early because of global warming, but even so—what a glorious sight as the fulfillment of spring’s recurring promise!

Here at ESUUC there is the promise of new things coming: a sparkling new, energy saving refrigerator for the kitchen. Yay! A new plan for grading and draining the parking lot. No more puddles, mud and icy

spots. Yay! The new stained glass window is already coming to life in the artist's studio. And new talent will be at the piano for Sunday morning music. New visitors continue to join us. It's all good.

As March arrives we can always count on new life and energy springing forth from the earth. No telling when OUR daffodils will bloom (but we are certain they will). And this certainty inspires us to new life and energy in every aspect of our community of faith. Yay!

See you in church.



## *Musings from the President: Annual Planning to Start, You Can Help*

*by Matt Mathis*

Soon we will be starting to plan for the next church year. The first step, some time in March, will be to start working on budget. In April, we will conduct our canvas, in which we seek pledges from all of our members. In May, we will be putting the finishing touches on the Budget and all other church business. In June, we will have our Annual meeting, when we officially adopt the budget and other church business, and elect new officers.

Ahhh, Elections, that would require candidates too, wouldn't it? This year we will be electing President, Vice President, Program Chair, Community Facilitator, and Facilities Manager. The latter two positions have been open for at least a year.

One of the issues I discussed at last years annual meeting was that these positions are unnecessarily hard to fill due to the way they are specified in our Bylaws. I was hoping to conduct a major Bylaws overhaul this year, but I have been too busy with other stuff to even consider it. It is still possible to introduce amendments to update the existing descriptions, for example by deleting specific duties.

Chris Priano is doing a wonderful job of attacking our facilities TODO list backlog. However, he is essentially doing double duty on board positions. Please join in and help!

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call me at 412.654.7529 or drop a note to [mathis@psc.edu](mailto:mathis@psc.edu) or [president@esuuc.org](mailto:president@esuuc.org).

## *Religious Education*

### ***Class Calendar for March:***

#### **Elementary:**

March 2 Children's Chapel – Julia Begg  
March 9 Weaving Our Lives Together - Natalie Mendik  
March 16 Freedom to Learn - Kate Zingarelli  
March 23 NO RE CLASSES – Easter Sunday  
March 30 Service Project Sunday

#### **Middle:**

March 2 Children's Chapel – Julia Begg  
March 9 We Care for Our Church, We Have Fun Together – Gayle Pamerleau  
March 16 We Serve and Care for Others – Tabitha Riggio  
March 23 NO RE CLASSES – EASTER SUNDAY  
March 30 Service Project Sunday

#### **COA:**

March 2 Children's Chapel – Julia Begg  
March 9 UU Rosaries – Marianne Jew and Mary Kukura-Straw  
March 16 Spring Equinox – Mary Kukura-Straw  
March 23 NO RE CLASSES – EASTER SUNDAY  
March 30 Service Project Sunday

## *Sunday Refreshments*

One of the most popular Unitarian traditions is the social hour after each service. At ESUUC, each adult member (or couple) takes a turn bringing refreshments – on average, about one turn a year. That way, everyone has one week to share their refreshment-making skills, and the rest of the year to enjoy!

To ensure fairness, we assign each adult member or couple a date on which to bring refreshments. These don't have to be anything homemade or fancy, though such extra-nice treats are always welcome! Store-bought treats work well, too. If you haven't brought refreshments before, or are unfamiliar with how things are set up, you may want to come in the weekend before your turn to see how it's done. There are also instructions in the kitchen on how to use the coffeemaker and hot water pot. If you are still confused, or need assistance, contact Brenda Shiring at [brennyren@yahoo.com](mailto:brennyren@yahoo.com). Don't think she'll let you off the hook, though, as we all seem to like to eat!

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

March 2	Mary Warwick
March 9	Kate & Mark Zingarelli
March 16	Melissa Alcorn-Ferry
March 23	Sharing Sunday
March 30	Merritt Baily

April 6	Dan & Kate Begg
April 13	Jill & Keith Born
April 20	Kate Codd-Palmer & Brien Palmer
April 27	Jun Deng & Brian Ogle

## *Parking Lost Plan*

Members, friends, visitors...lend me your ears (and your shovels, rakes and muscle, too).

We all know the church parking lot is in need of improvement, to put it mildly. Money that had been earmarked for a better parking lot had to be reallocated recently to purchase the new RE wing furnace. After consulting with board members (and others who've been previously involved with parking lot maintenance), here's our game plan:

First of all, we've contacted our snowplowing contractor, Daugherty Enterprises, who (going forward) has kindly agreed to clear the lot from side to side, rather than pushing all the gravel down towards the creek. They'll also begin to salt the lot. However, they'll only automatically plow/salt if we need the lot cleared for Sunday service. If you have something going on at church on another day of the week, and snow removal is required, please call Daugherty Enterprises directly at 724 325-2211, to arrange for plowing. Remember: We don't currently have a facilities manager monitoring the church calendar and arranging for additional snow plowing when needed.

Of course, the most desirable option would be a paved lot, but financially, that's beyond our reach at the moment. One of our members has proposed a more practical and affordable solution: installation of a french drain, in conjunction with grading improvements and placement of new gravel of a higher quality. This'll be a better, longer-lasting interim fix than just dumping more cheap gravel on to the lot. Plus, the job can be completed with volunteer labor.

The tentative date for actually performing the work is Saturday, May 3 (rain date the following Saturday, May 10). We have technical expertise available to us, but need able-bodied individuals to assist with the manual labor. If you're interested in helping, in any capacity, please e-mail Chris Priano at [treasurer@esuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@esuuc.org), or call him at 412 848-5170. We also ask that interested parties try to attend a short planning meeting after service Sunday, March 16, where we'll outline the necessary tasks and finalize the requirements for people, machinery and materials.

To keep maintenance of the church from becoming a burden, we have line items in our operating budget to pay for a professional janitorial service, lawn care and snow removal. In addition, Laurie Montgomery's landscaping committee has done a beautiful job with shrubbery and flowers. Still, the church structure and grounds will always have unexpected needs and a few "big jobs" that we'll have to attend to ourselves. Several years ago, it was the roof, and look at the beautiful roof we have today, thanks to a number of dedicated individuals from within our own ranks.

One or two people can't tackle this parking lot project themselves, and we're not in a position right now where we can afford to pay a contractor to do the work. Having a messy parking lot isn't just an

inconvenient eyesore, it's also a safety hazard. So if you're tired of driving and walking through mud, please pitch in and help! Don't make me gravel - I mean, "grovel." All pathetic attempts at humor aside, the job won't get done if we only have a few people trying to care for this issue.

Let's give our church home the TLC it needs and deserves. When we decided to buy this property, that commitment extended beyond just making the monthly mortgage payment. Consider all the wonderful events that have been made possible by us having our own space.

Please contact Chris Priano with any questions. Thanks!

## *News from the Treasurer*

by Chris Priano

Starting this month, I'm including summary financial data in my monthly column. As always, feel free to call or e-mail me if you have any questions about the church's finances:

Liquid assets, 7/1/07:	\$20,034
Liquid assets, 1/31/08:	\$28,509
Increase in liquid assets:	\$ 8,475
Net inflows:	\$ 8,475

Pledge payments thru 1/31/08:	\$29,291 (60% of target)
Collection cash thru 1/31/08:	\$ 1,301 (26% of target)

Operating expenses thru 1/31/08:	\$28,551 (52% of budgeted)
Mortgage balance, 1/31/08:	\$33,910

Goodsearch update: ESUUC is now a registered charity with Goodsearch, the Internet search engine I described in my last column. You can download the Goodsearch toolbar onto your computer by visiting <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbars.aspx>. (I suspect most people are using Internet Explorer 5 - 7, though there are some other browser choices available.) You'll be given the opportunity to select ESUUC as the organization you'd like to support. Then, every time you do a web search, you'll be helping to raise money for ESUUC, at NO COST to you. Example: a small charity (100 users), with each person performing an average of two web searches per day, would generate approximately \$730 in revenue in one year. Give it a try. (One warning: I had difficulty getting the Goodsearch toolbar to work on my computer. Leona Dunnett had no trouble at all, so I suspect the problem is specific to my cranky old laptop. It's growing ever more intolerant of the endless demands I make of it.)

Abitibi update: We've received another check, for just over \$20. Since the start of this fiscal year (July 1), we've made about \$74 from the Abitibi program, easy money for trash we'd only be throwing away. So keep that old newspaper coming! I monitor the bin from week to week, but if you see it's getting full, let me know, or call Abitibi directly: 412 279-3001 and select option 1 for customer service.

In other news: Hopefully, by the time you read this, the church will have a new refrigerator. We've had the money set aside for a while. Kudos to Nancy Fitzgerald and Maureen Lilly for their preliminary research. They were ready to purchase something months ago, but at that time, our cash flow wouldn't permit it.

Finally: A big THANK YOU to Marianne Jew, who's graciously volunteered to be my assistant treasurer. Marianne will be helping me by processing weekly collections and making bank deposits. This arrangement provides an additional safeguard for cash by assigning the receipt and disbursement functions to two different people. Please contact me with any questions you may have about pledge status and such, as I'll be continuing to perform overall financial record keeping.

## *Easter Egg Hunt*

The Easter Bunny is coming to ESUUC! Well, not really. But there WILL be an Easter egg hunt after service on Easter (Sunday, March 23). All children of the congregation are invited to join us for an egg hunt, including small prizes and treats. If you think your child or children would like to take part, please contact Brenda Shiring (724-334-1507 or e-mail [brennyren@yahoo.com](mailto:brennyren@yahoo.com)) so we'll know how many to prepare for.

## *Stitch Witches*

The first meeting of the Stitch Witches will be held on Sunday, March 2, 2008 at 1pm in the Community Room. Our purpose is to be together in community and crochet, knit, sew and/or craft hats, scarves, mittens, socks and afghans for the many people in need. The opportunities for service are many, and we are hoping that our time spent together will help to make a difference in the world one stitch at a time. If you are interested, please come to our first stitch along. You can contact Kate Zingarelli at [kate.zing@gmail.com](mailto:kate.zing@gmail.com) for more information. Everyone is welcome whether you stitch or not. Bring scrap yarn and fleece if you have it. Which brings us to another point:

## *Yarn Needed*

Do you have yarn cluttering up your house? Skein her, half skein there, not enough to do anything with, some you over bought, or some you look at now and wonder what you were possibly thinking about when you bought it? Well, have we got a solution for you! If you would like to untangle yourself from the thread that is messing up your Karma, please consider donating it for the knitters and crotchetier, we would be happy to accept it! Please bring it to church and place it in the box labeled 'Yarn Donations' in the RE hallway near the back door. We will put it to good use!

## *T-Shirts Also Needed*

The RE departments latest service project is underway. To help complete it we need t-shirts, which will be used for a recycling project. If you have any you would like to donate, we would be happy to accept them! You can put them in the box in the RE hallway labeled 'T-shirts'. Thank you!

## *ESUUC to Walk in Relay for Life*

Lace up your walking shoes! ESUUC's "UUs for the Cuure" team will walk again this year in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. The event is May 30-31 at Franklin Regional High School. If you'd like to walk in the Relay, or have some ideas for team fund-raising – or both! – contact team captain Brenda Shiring at [brennyren@yahoo.com](mailto:brennyren@yahoo.com), or 724-334-1507.

## *The ESUUC Lending Library*

The ESUUC Lending Library, located in the Community Room, is open and ready for you to discover the wealth of information available for "borrowing". Through ongoing generous donations from our church community, we are able to provide a Lending Library with books that cover a wide range of topics. Please take a few minutes to peruse the shelves and borrow any book that peaks your interest. All you have to do is sign out the book on the Checkout Clipboard located on the shelf. When you return the book, cross off your name. It's that simple.

We welcome book donations to our library. If you would like to donate books, please leave them in the marked donation box located in the community room on the bottom shelf.

Magazines are wonderful to share too. If you have recent (2007 on) magazines you would like to donate, they also may be left in the donation box. Magazines will be free to circulate without signing them out.

## *Global Connections*

*Uganda*—Dr Waun and three other American volunteers had a successful trip to the African school, which we support. The one volunteer, 18-year-old William Delphia made a huge hit with the children with his video camera as he filmed footage for a documentary, and with his computer skills in setting up a network of little laptop computers for the children and staff.

Retiree volunteers Steve and Kay Martin brought skills in budget, construction and teaching. Steve brought American tools to work on the two-room brick structure we worked on, only to discover that the bricks, tools and methods are VERY different in Uganda. But we made good progress, with walls constructed all the way up to the roofline. Kay and Dr. Waun worked with Director Hanan Bulime on how to manage his operating budget. They also teamed up to present several hours of teacher training to the school staff, based upon Howard Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences.

Other highlights included trips to Kampala to purchase schoolbooks and supplies, first aid materials, and sample crafts to show to the craft teacher as ideas for our own craft making business at the school. We also filmed many interviews with local officials, teachers, students, parents and neighbors of the school, finding that everyone is raving about the quality of education there. In fact, the student's P7 test scores are in the top 20 in Uganda! We also identified 18 children who will now be given sponsorships by several new American supporters.

We also took one day off (it happened to be Hanan's birthday) to visit Bugigali Falls for a well-earned time of relaxation and picnicking. A trip to visit the newly purchase land called Trinity Campus had to be cancelled because there was an outbreak of some unknown fatal disease in the area, and health officials (worried about the possibility of the Ebola virus) had cordoned off the entire region after three deaths were reported. So that visit will have to wait until next time.

If anyone would like to hear more stories and get more information about the school or future trips to Uganda, please contact: Dr. Waun [mwaun2003@yahoo.com](mailto:mwaun2003@yahoo.com) or Ken Noble [msgtofmst@yahoo.com](mailto:msgtofmst@yahoo.com) (who volunteered on the previous trip to Uganda).

### *District Assembly Coming April 4,5 in Pittsburgh*

On Friday evening and Saturday, April 4 and 5, the Ohio Meadville District of the UUA will meet for its annual assembly at the First Unitarian Church in Pittsburgh. It is a time to reconnect with other UUs from Western PA, Eastern Ohio and West Virginia for sharing, visioning, workshops, inspiration and elections.

Keynoter for the assembly will be well-known pastor, author and theologian Alice Blair Wesley. You will definitely want to hear her speak!

Each church is entitled to have a certain number of voting delegates to the assembly, but all UUs are encouraged to attend and participate in the activities. If you are interested in attending, please contact Dr. Waun 412-731-2834, [mwaun2003@yahoo.com](mailto:mwaun2003@yahoo.com). There is a registration fee of \$55 for the assembly which includes Friday's light supper and reception, Saturday breakfast and lunch.

### *Light Book Club*

The nonfiction book "Blink" by Malcolm Gladwell will be discussed this month. The light book club will meet on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Susan Goodis and Matt Matt Mathis' home, 408 Alpine Village Drive, Monroeville, PA. 724-325-8048.

### *Caring and Concerns Committee*

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."  
- Leo Bucaglia

#### Happy Birthday!

Wendy Noe  
Susan Goodis

#### Happy Anniversary!

Karen & Gerard Katilius

*As a community, we share our positive energies to help those who are having difficult times...*

Brien Palmer and family - Brian's father is hospitalized

Nancy Fitzgerald for her mother

Kathy Ruffing and family for her mother

Mary Warwick – tax season

Each month, we will post this column for birthdays, anniversaries, honors, illnesses, or memorials. As this

is just the second month, I am still compiling information, thus I must apologize if any special events go un-mentioned. Please contact me at [Caring@ESUUC.org](mailto:Caring@ESUUC.org) or call 412-609-1232 with events you wish to have included in our newsletter. Thank-you, Susan Goodis

## *Two Items from the Ohio-Meadville District:*

### **I. Online Registration and Credit Card Payments Now Available from the OMD**

New to the Ohio-Meadville District Website - online registration and credit card payments for select Ohio-Meadville events. Currently you can register for District Assembly, the three Leadership Conferences, the Curriculum Fair and the Junior/Senior High Our Whole Lives Training online. Online payment is available for all these events.

Donors to the Chalice Lighters and Friends of the OMD programs can also now make their donations online with credit cards. Due to a special non-profit program with our online credit card company, Google Checkout, all donations are transaction free for 2008, which means 100% of your donation goes to the district.

Visit [www.ohiomeadville.org](http://www.ohiomeadville.org) and click the link for online registration and donations to learn more. If you have questions about this new program, please contact our District Administrator, Beth Casebolt at [office@ohiomeadville.org](mailto:office@ohiomeadville.org)

### **II. Long Range Planning Team Begins Interviews**

The Long Range Planning Team for the Ohio-Meadville District is conducting interviews with random congregational presidents, ministers, religious education directors, commissioned lay leaders, youth and various other leaders in the district during February and March. At the upcoming April 4-5 District Assembly, everyone else will have a chance to give the Team input, as well.

The Long Range Planning Team will be asking questions about district purpose and programming as well as considerations for the district's future. The interviewees were chosen by random from various categorical lists. If the Long Range Planning Team calls you or if you attend District Assembly, please help by giving your input into this important process.

If you have questions, please contact the Team chair, Kathie Slater, at [kslater@ohiomeadville.org](mailto:kslater@ohiomeadville.org)

## *Congregational Committees*

### **Committee – Chair (email)**

Aesthetics – Jean Robl and Maureen Lilly Building and Facilities – open Caring & Concerns – Susan Goodis Committee on Ministry – Gayle Pamerleau Community – Brenda Shiring Drumming – Frank Nemeth ( <a href="mailto:drumming@esuuc.org">drumming@esuuc.org</a> ) Finance – Chris Priano Landscaping – Laurie Montgomery	Membership – Marylyn Devlin Music – Alan Halperin Pastoral Care – Maria Luczkow Religious Education – Kate Zingarelli Sunday Programs/Celebrations – Mary Kukura-Straw Welcoming Congregation – Matt Mathis
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## *Newsletter Deadlines*

March 2007 newsletter deadline: **March 16**

Please email your articles to [newsletter@esuuc.org](mailto:newsletter@esuuc.org) or call Mary Warwick (724) 327-3092 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.



## Calendar

Saturday, March 1

7:00pm Lite Book Club

Sunday, March 2

9:30am Choir Rehearsal for today's Service

10:30am Sunday Service

12:00pm Program Committee

12:30pm STITCH WITCH'S CIRCLE

5:00pm OWL gr7-9 (tentative)

8:00pm \* Spirit Progress Radio is an online streamed audio radio program

Wednesday, March 5

1:00pm Wednesday Book Club

7:30pm Board Meeting

Sunday, March 9

10:30am Sunday Service

12:00pm Council On Committee Meeting

5:00pm OWL gr7-9 (tentative)

5:30pm Youth Group

8:00pm \* Spirit Progress Radio is an online streamed audio radio program

Saturday, March 15

9:00am Non-ESUUC Event (Mixed Media Art)

9:00am OWL gr7-9 (tentative)

Sunday, March 16

10:30am Sunday Service

8:00pm \* Spirit Progress Radio is an online streamed audio radio program

11:00pm Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, March 23

10:30am Sunday Service

5:00pm OWL gr7-9 (tentative)

5:30pm Youth Group

8:00pm \* Spirit Progress Radio is an online streamed audio radio program

Sunday, March 30

10:30am Sunday Service

5:00pm OWL gr7-9 (tentative)

8:00pm \* Spirit Progress Radio is an online streamed audio radio program

Wednesday, April 2

1:00pm Wednesday Book Club

Saturday, April 5

9:00am OWL gr7-9 (tentative)

Sunday, April 6

All day Canvas Kickoff

9:30am Choir Rehearsal for today's Service

**When** Sun, Apr 6, 9:30am – 10:30am

**Where** ESUUC

**Description** All are welcome - come practice with us at 9:30 am and sing at the today's Service. We practice and sing on the 1st Sunday of each month. Contact Alan Halperin or Jean Robl if you have any questions.

10:30am Sunday Service

12:00pm Program Committee

5:30pm Youth Group

8:00pm \* Spirit Progress Radio is an online streamed audio radio program

Wednesday, April 9

7:30pm Board Meeting



Sunday, April 13

10:30am Sunday Service

5:00pm OWL gr7-9 (tentative)

8:00pm \* Spirit Progress Radio is an online streamed audio radio program

Saturday, April 19

9:00am Non-ESUUC Event (Mixed Media Art)