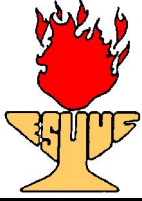


East Suburban Unitarian Universalist Church



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

Telephone
(724) 327-5872

Website
<http://www.esuuc.org>

Volume 44 No. 7

May 2008

Editor: Mary Warwick
newsletter@esuuc.org

ESUUC Sunday Services

Sunday, May 4, 10:30 am – “*Decisions, Decisions*” — as Unitarian Universalists, we pride ourselves on being open-minded and tolerant of others’ religious beliefs, opinions and practices. So how do we make decisions within the life of a congregation, when every opinion counts but not everyone will be happy with the outcome? **Dr. Waun** will help us unravel this dilemma

Sunday, May 11, 10:30 am – “*Eating to Save Mother Earth*” -- Join us in celebrating all our mothers including Mother Earth as we discuss how buying local helps not only the local farmers and the economy, but also the planet. Merritt Bailey will review "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle" by Barbara Kingsolver while CSA member Kate Zingarelli and local producer, Bob Berich will share their experiences of eating what they grow and raise. Information will be available on how to buy local for those who are interested.

Sunday, May 18, 10:30 am – “*What Does It Mean to Be Free?*”-- Bill Pamerleau, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Univ. of Pittsburgh at Greensburg The nature of freedom is one of the perennial topics in philosophy. This discussion examines some of the problems associated with the notion of a free will and suggests that our ability to choose is far more dependent upon our society than is generally thought. With these considerations in mind, we might then ask whether we truly live in a free society.

Sunday, May 25, 10:30 am – “*Election Discussion!*”- It's election time! We have all four parties in our congregation: Libertarian, Republican, Democrat and Green. The representative for each will make a pitch and take questions from the congregation.

Sunday, June 1, 10:30am—“*Displaced Persons*”—We all have roots that go way back into other countries and cultures. In some sense, we might say that we are ALL displaced persons. Today, every country is struggling with who is supposed to be there and who is not; who is allowed to work and vote, drive, marry, have access to free education and health care. **Dr. Waun** will reflect on the ups and downs of this issue. **We will also have a special dedication ceremony for our new stained glass window, with artist Terry Bengel.**



Pastor's Column: *Giving Voice to Our Faith*

by Rev. Renee Waun

Recently I was listening to an NPR feature about Edward R. Murrow’s radio series from 1951 entitled “*This I Believe*”, where he would invite people to read a four minute essay on what they believed—what made life worth living and what faith meant to them.

He had people like Harry S. Truman, Eleanor Roosevelt, Albert Einstein, Pearl S. Buck, and General Lucius Clay say what they believed, in addition to ordinary people like barbers, taxi drivers and librarians. The series made an enormous hit, and as I listened to the program on NPR I marveled at some of the snippets they played from the original historic sound tracks.

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I recognized a few of the voices, but the one that really stunned and amazed me was the voice of Helen Keller—the woman who was born blind and deaf and who had to painstakingly learn to communicate with the help of a devoted teacher. I found her voice to be undecipherable, so strange and garbled it was. But look at the translation from her teacher Polly Thompson of some of her words from that essay on her beliefs:

By faith I mean a vision of Good one cherishes and the enthusiasm that pushes one to seek its fulfillment regardless of obstacles. Faith is a dynamic power that breaks the chain of routine and gives a new, fine turn to old commonplaces. Faith reinvigorates the will, enriches the affections and awakens a sense of creativeness.

Isn't that absolutely amazing? I can only imagine the life journey she had to take from her birth to adulthood, in order for her to be able to think and to "speak" and to communicate the way that she did. It's a miracle.

What does faith mean to you? To me? What makes life worth living? What do you believe? Like Helen Keller and the others, I think it's a worthy exercise, no matter where we are in life, to take time to reflect on this and to clarify our thinking on these things. It is a process of growth and change, but certainly one that we encourage here at ESUUC. See you in church!

Stained Glass Window Dedication Ceremony

On Sunday, June 1 we will set aside time during our worship service to dedicate our magnificent new stained glass window. Well-known artist Terry Bengel has recently been featured on WQED's "On Q" where the reporter and camera crew went to his studio while he was fashioning our window. Our window is now famous! See the video at this link:

<http://www.wqed.org/ondemand/onq.php?cat=&id=266&search=stained%20glass>

Summer Institute

The annual Summer Institute (SI) experience awaits you at Kenyon College in Gambria, OH, this year from July 13-19. 2008 Theme Speaker: Meg Barnhouse, speaker, singer/songwriter and humorist. Meg is a commentator for NC Public Radio on a segment called "Radio Free Bubba." Summer Institute is a week long institute with programming for adults, young adults, youth and children, and is a family-friendly camp. To learn more about Summer Institute and its programs, please talk with alums Alan Halperin or Nancy Fitzgerald, or visit the OMD Summer Institute website at www.omdsi.org.

Other UU Summer Opportunities—located on the magazine rack just inside the front door of the church are several brochures and posters announcing UU summer camps and destinations for all ages. Check them out!

Religious Education

Class Calendar for May

Elementary

May 4 Children's Chapel – Julia Begg
11 NO RE CLASSES – MOTHER'S DAY
18 The Web of Humankind – Wendy Noe
25 Service Project Sunday

June 1 Children's Chapel – Julia Begg
8 NO RE CLASSES – FLOWER COMMUNION/TEACHER RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Middle

May 4 Children's Chapel – Julia Begg

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- 11 NO RE CLASSES – MOTHER’S DAY
- 18 We Care for our Church and Have Fun Together – Kate Begg
- 25 Service Project Sunday

- June 1 Children’s Chapel – Julia Begg
- 8 NO RE CLASSES – FLOWER COMMUNION/TEACHER RECOGNITION SUNDAY

COA

- May 4 Children’s Chapel – Julia Begg
- 11 NO RE CLASSES – MOTHER’S DAY
- 18 The Golden Rule – Marianne Jew
- 25 Service Project Sunday

- June 1 Children’s Chapel – Julia Begg
- 8 NO RE CLASSES – FLOWER COMMUNION/TEACHER RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Caring & Concerns

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

Happy Birthday!
 April Soule
 Nancy Fitzgerald

Happy Anniversary!
 Wendy & Dave Noe

As a community, we share our positive energies to help those who are having difficult times...
 Brian Palmer & family on the transitioning of his parents to assisted living

Condolences:
 David Schwartz on his mother's passing

“Life is not a brief candle... It is a splendid torch that must be made to burn as brightly as possible before it is handed on to the next generation.”
 -George Bernard Shaw

Each month, we will post this column for birthdays, anniversaries, honors, illnesses, or memorials. Please contact Susan Goodis at Caring@ESUUC.org or call 412-609-1232 with events you wish to have included in our newsletter. Thank-you.

Donate to UUs for the Cure

Our “UUs for the Cuure” team will be walking in the Murrysville Relay for Life at Franklin Regional High School from noon on Friday, May 30 to noon on Saturday, May 31. This will be the team’s second year representing ESUUC in the annual American Cancer Society fundraiser. Don’t forget to donate to this worthy cause! You can either donate directly to one of our walkers, put money in our “Change for the Cuure” jug on the refreshment table in the Community Room, or donate on-line to “UUs for the Cuure” at the Murrysville Relay. To donate at the website, go to www.events.cancer.org/rflpamurrysville, click on “2008 Teams,” then click on “UUs for the Cuure.”

Bookclub Selection

This month’s book selection is the classic *Slaughter House Five* by Kurt Vonnegut. The bookclub will meet on May 7th at 1:00 p.m. at Panera Bread, Penn Center, Wilkins Twp.

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News from the Treasurer

By Chris Priano

Liquid assets, 7/1/07: \$ 20,034

Liquid assets, 3/31/08: \$ 18,728

Increase (decrease) in liquid assets: (\$ 1,306)

Net inflows: (\$ 1,306)

Pledge payments through 3/31/08: \$ 33,411 (68% of target)

Collection cash through 3/31/08: \$ 1,885 (37.7% of target)

Operating expenses through 3/31/08: \$ 37,084 (67.5% of budgeted)

Mortgage balance, 3/31/08: \$ 32,869

As you can see, we're now to the point in the fiscal year where our outflows have begun to exceed our inflows. You may recall that we've had some unexpected expenses (furnace, plumbing problems) and also finally purchased a badly-needed new refrigerator. For pledging members who may be behind in your payments, I'd appreciate it if you could bring your pledge commitment current as soon as possible. If you need to know where you stand, please call me (412 848-5170) or e-mail me (treasurer@esuuc.org).

Remember that our annual canvass is currently underway. Please get your pledge forms to me at your earliest convenience. You may deposit them in the drop safe located in the church foyer.

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. It works out, on average, to about one turn per person/couple per year. PLEASE NOTE that for various reasons, it will be necessary for some people who brought refreshments earlier this year to take another turn as we near the end of the church year. (Just remember, somebody else will have that fun next year!)

To ensure fairness, we assign each adult member/couple a date on which to bring refreshments. These don't have to be homemade or fancy; 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 or 724-334-1507. If I'm at the service and you want a hand, just come and get me. The only thing I WON'T do is let you off the hook – we need your participation to keep this fun tradition alive (and everybody fed)!

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

May 4	Marylyn Devlin
May 11	Leona & Tom Dunnett
May 18	Jenifer Ewart
May 25	Nancy Fitzgerald

June 1	Susan Goodis & Matt Mathis
June 8	Sharing Sunday
June 15	Alan & Jennifer Halperin
June 22	Marianne Jew
June 29	Gerard & Karen Katilius

Book Signing, June 8

In the past, we have enjoyed poetry readings by Dr. Mehernosh Khan. He has just published Volume 2 of "Wingless Angels," a Chronology of Spiritual and Sensual Poems. Dr. Khan has made us a very generous offer--on June 8 he will autograph copies of his book and donate ALL the proceeds to ESUUC. The price of this inspiring book of poetry is just \$12, clear profit for our church. Remember the date!

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Uganda or Bust

If you are considering going to Uganda as a volunteer with Dr. Waun, the dates of the next trip are **January 27-February 13, 2009**, which is the low season (cost wise) for travel to Uganda and so the airlines offer their cheapest fares. Tickets are available for about \$1600, including all taxes and fees, making the total for the trip around \$2100. If you or someone you know is interested, contact Dr. Waun mwaun2003@yahoo.com 412-731-2834, and visit the website to read what it takes to be a volunteer and to read volunteer blogs www.africanruralschools.org. See ticket prices at www.onetravel.com.

New Crafts

The newest collection of crafts from Uganda, including bark picture frames, book marks, necklaces, earrings and woven bowls are on display at the back of the sanctuary. All proceeds from the sale of these hand made crafts go directly to the children at the African Rural Schools Foundation. The craft items make wonderful Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthday, wedding and graduation gifts.

Pitching in for Peace – May 18 Interfaith Cooperation Day

Our friends from the Monroeville Interfaith Ministerium will join hands with us and work together in cooperation on several projects in the greater Monroeville area on the afternoon of Sunday, May 18. It is our way of showing that we can work together in peace and harmony for the good of others. It will be a great statement to the community.

The Ministerium worked for months to identify places where intergenerational groups could volunteer and accomplish simple tasks during the course of an afternoon. The day will be organized for our volunteers as follows:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1-1:45 PM | Gather for a light lunch at Temple David
(You won't want to miss their fabulous food!!) |
| 2-4:45 PM | Disperse to work sites |
| 5-5:30 PM | Gather for a closing event at Church of the Brethren |

If you are interested in being a volunteer with our interfaith friends for a few hours on May 18, please contact Dr. Waun 412-731-2834 mwaun2003@yahoo.com. Thanks!

Interfaith Art Exhibit

Are you an artist? Would you like to have your work(s) displayed with others in an art exhibit and contest on **Saturday, May 31 from 10 to 4pm and Sunday, June 1 from 12-4pm at the Garden City UMC Church**? Works must be original and not from a kit. Entry fees: \$4 per adult for up to 4 pieces. Students, no fee. All work(s) must be registered. You may offer your work(s) for sale. Ribbons will be awarded in several categories. Deadline to register is May 19. Register to participate by calling Sally Wightkin 412-856-2882 or by visiting the Garden City UMC website: www.gbgm-um.org/gardencity.org

Chalice Lighters Grant Program

If you would be willing to help out other UU churches in the Ohio Meadville District when they have special needs, you might consider being part of a UU district wide group called Chalice Lighters. As a Chalice Lighter you would agree to send a minimum of \$10 per request from the District, with up to two requests per year.

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If you recently signed up to be a Chalice Lighter, we need you to resubmit your information because something went kablooey with the District's computer and the information was lost. Please visit <http://www.ohiomeadville.org/steward/chalight.html> and sign up again. Thank you so much.

Scrip Program Goes On Hiatus

Our CoA Scrip fundraiser program is taking a break until the new fiscal year (July 2008). Thank you to everyone who has purchased scrip cards for the Giant Eagle, Panera Bread, Sunoco, and all the special-order cards you have ordered. During the current church fiscal year (July 2007-present) this program has raised \$450 for our Coming of Age program!

Look for scrip sales to resume mid-summer, in July or August 2008. Thank you again for your support!

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 – Bill Dunham (drumming@esuuc.org) 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

June 2008 newsletter deadline: May 18th.

Please email your articles to 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. 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, May 3

All day - Close Canvas

9:00am - Parking lot Repairs

Sunday, May 4

9:30am - Choir Rehearsal for today's Service

10:30am - Sunday Service

12:00pm - Program Committee

5:00pm - OWL gr7-9 (tentative)

5:30pm - Youth Group

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

Wednesday, May 7

1:00pm - Wednesday Book Club

7:30pm - Board Meeting

Saturday, May 10

9:00am Parking lot Repairs (Rain date)

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Sunday, May 11

10:30am - Sunday Service

12:00pm - Finance committee meeting

5:00pm - OWL gr7-9 (tentative)

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

Saturday, May 17

All day Annual Mailing

9:00am - OWL gr7-9 (tentative)

Sunday, May 18

10:30am - Sunday Service

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

11:00pm - Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, May 21

1:00pm - Current Events Group

Sunday, May 25

10:30am - Sunday Service

5:00pm - OWL gr7-9 (tentative)

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

Sunday, June 1

9:30am - Choir Rehearsal for today's Service

10:30am - Sunday Service

12:00pm - Annual Town Hall Meeting

4:00pm - OWL gr7-9 (Last Class & Celebration)

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

Wednesday, June 4

1:00pm - Wednesday Book Club

7:30pm - Board Meeting

Saturday, June 7

All day - Annual Meeting

9:00am - OWL gr7-9 (tentative)

Sunday, June 8

10:30am - Sunday Service

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

Sunday, June 15

10:30am - Sunday Service

5:00pm - OWL gr7-9 (tentative)

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

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