

AlleghenyADVOCATE

Monthly Newsletter of Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church

Thanks everybody who attended the annual meeting after church on May 21st. The committee chairs provided concise reviews of their committees' activities and we had quite a discussion of the church's social justice activities. If you weren't able to make it, be sure to ask the person in the pew next to you all about it. Of course, starting July 2nd, don't forget that you will need to get to church by 10:30 not to miss any of the action.

A lot has changed since I joined the Board six years ago. We have new activities, committees and task forces – Inreach/Caring Chocolates, the Down Under Coffee House, Sacred Spaces Task Force, Tai Chi, fUUd for Thought, Fundraising Committee, Welcoming Congregations, just to name a few. The sanctuary has a new paint job, the care-worn Jefferson Room has been transformed into beautiful Founders Hall and now we have smooth sidewalks! New sound systems, a cleaned and painted Religious Ed space in the U House, a monthly communion service, (pant pant pant – I'm running out of breath just ticking off all that has been done and all that continues). Over twice as many people doing ten times as many things!

Just like six years ago, wonderful people continue to be the foundation on which all this rests. It is your talents and enthusiasm, your contributions of time and money, your intellect and perseverance, your love and friendship that are the warmth and energy of AUUC.

At the annual meeting, Andrew Weber, Alex West and Kim Winbush were elected to the vacant seats on the Board of Trustees. I think they will bring great skills and perspectives. The new Board chooses its officers at its June meeting, so stay tuned to see who will be filling those key leadership positions. I'll miss being on the Board, but I take joy in knowing that we have blossomed over the past few years because it's not just those "official" leaders – the Board, the officers, the staff, the committee chairs and Reverend Dave – who contribute energy and enthusiasm. It's everybody at AUUC!

John Engberg

It is your talents and enthusiasm, your contributions of time and money, your intellect and perseverance, your love and friendship that are the warmth and energy of AUUC.

Welcome New Members

On Sunday 14 May, Allegheny welcomed 13 new members to the congregation! The new members include:

- ❖
- ❖
- ❖ ...list suppressed for web version...
- ❖
- ❖
- ❖
- ❖
- ❖

Please take the time to welcome and get to know these new members. Individually and collectively they are a group with many talents and gifts to share. Who knows....?! Allegheny's future Board of Trustees President may be on this list.

In the Church

Thomas Merton Center

On April 30th Edith Bell spoke to our congregation about her experiences as a Jewish young person in Nazi Germany. At the end of her moving talk she explained how her personal experience during that time had motivated her to live a life of activism for peace and social justice. She then challenged us to be activists, and to join the Thomas Merton Center, whose mission is:

...to instill a consciousness of values, and to raise the moral questions involved in the issues of war, poverty, racism, and oppression. TMC members are people from diverse philosophies and faiths who find common ground in the nonviolent struggle to bring about a more peaceful and just society.

The Thomas Merton Center has been Pittsburgh's center for peace and social justice since 1972, acting as a resource and organizing center for over thirty different projects.

To become a member of the Thomas Merton Center, the donation is \$10 per year (students/low income), or \$35 (base level). Registration forms are on the back page of New People, the TMC's monthly publication, which can be found in the rack below the bulletin board in the basement hallway of Allegheny UU Church. Or you could just mail your check to: The Thomas Merton Center, 5125 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15224.

UUs United For Faith In Action

On June 17, Allegheny will once again be participating in the annual Pride Awareness March. We will be marching again this year with the other Pittsburgh-area churches through the organizational efforts of UUs United For Faith In Action.

Our Allegheny parade banner will be carried, showing our continued Church support of the GLBTQ community, and folks are encouraged to wear their blue UUs United tee shirts.

March participants are encouraged to park in the Stadium parking lots adjacent to the festival grounds and take advantage of the free shuttle busses to the beginning of the march route.

The march gathers at Ross Street starting at 10:00 am. At 12:00 noon sharp, we'll begin the March, turning down Fifth Avenue and proceeding to Liberty Avenue. We'll then make a left turn on Liberty to Stanwix Street. We'll go right on Stanwix to Fort Duquesne Blvd. and then head across the Roberto Clemente Bridge and proceed around PNC Park to end up at Riverfront Park on the North Shore where we will join in the ongoing festivities.

The festival will have music, vendor booths, food and information, plus some new activities for all ages.

Please join us as we show our solidarity!

Annual Picnic

Mark your calendars for June 11th immediately following the Sunday service when we have our Annual Picnic held in North Park. It is a picnic pot luck with lots of games and fun for all ages. Maps will be available.



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Financial Matters

Financial Update

The special Easter collection for next year's social justice work raised \$883.75! Thanks to all who contributed.

"Thank you" to all who returned your pledge form for the coming year. And a special thanks to those who not only pledged but also prepaid your FY2007 pledge! The pledge box in the Emerson Room eagerly awaits all pledge forms that haven't yet been returned. Your response is essential to completing a meaningful church budget.

The end of our fiscal year is fast approaching. You can help to ensure that the year-end financial statements are as accurate as possible:

- If you are behind in your pledge payments for FY2006, please catch up before June 30th if you are able.

All checks dated on or before June 30th will be counted toward your FY2006 pledge unless you note otherwise in the memo section of your check. And all checks dated on or after July 1, 2006 will be counted toward your FY2007 pledge.

If you anticipate paying the balance of your FY2006 pledge after June 30th, please let me know. Not sure about where you stand on your pledge payments? Ed Kinley can help you.

- All fundraising receipts need to go to Betty Schwarz for deposit as soon as possible.
- If you have ordered grocery gift certificates and haven't yet paid for them, please see Betty Schwarz.

All expenses related to FY2006 should be paid on or before June 30th. If you're a committee chair or have other budget responsibility and are holding receipts for budgeted expenses that haven't yet been reimbursed, please get your requests for reimbursement to me before June 30th.

Reimbursement forms are available in the folder in the study/office at the back of the sanctuary.

In the new fiscal year, it will be possible for you to have your pledge payment automatically deducted from your bank account and deposited into the church's bank account. Sign-up information will be available soon.

Jill Brethauer, Treasurer



**Don't make us use our secret weapon,
"puppy eyes"....**

Religious Education Update

May brings the end of the RE year.

June brings the beginning of summer child care each week . . . if folks volunteer to help out. Contact Kris ...

August brings the AUUC summer camp . . . if folks volunteer to help out. Contact Kim ...

Next year brings "Earth Based Religions and Humanism."

Your response is essential to completing a meaningful church budget. In the new fiscal year, it will be possible for you to have your pledge payment automatically deducted from your bank account and deposited into the church's bank account.

In the Church

Welcoming Committee

Our target is to have all the work completed by early 2007 and be able to have a congregational vote to declare we are a welcoming congregation at the 2007 Annual Meeting!

The Welcoming Committee continues to work toward helping AUUC become an official Welcoming Congregation. Our target is to have all the work completed by early 2007 and be able to have a congregational vote to declare we are a welcoming congregation at the 2007 Annual Meeting!

There are a number of activities and programs coming up. Please plan to join us for some of them so you can be part of the process of officially making our congregation a welcoming place for GLBT people.

June 17-18 is the annual PrideFest, featuring the Pride Awareness March on Saturday the 17th in Downtown Pittsburgh—more details will be announced at Sunday services in June. East Liberty Presbyterian Church is also holding a Family Pride Pancake Brunch on Sunday the 18th from 11:00 to 2:30.

June 25 the Welcoming Committee will be hosting our Sunday service speaker, Dana Elmendorf, an activist for equal marriage rights who will be speaking about her experiences working on this issue. Following the service there will be a discussion on the topic of marriage equality and all are encouraged to attend. Not only is this a topic close to the hearts of many in our congregation, but this is also a time when new legislation to ban same-sex marriage is being considered on both the state and national level. Join us to share your perspective, to learn more about how this affects GLBT couples, or to find out what is happening in the political scene.

Welcoming Committee is planning a summer GLBT Film Night, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, July 22. We are planning to view a couple films, possibly including Antonia's Line and

The Celluloid Closet. More details will be posted in the July Advocate and announced at Sunday services in July. Hope you can join us for some good food, film and discussion!

AUUC Choir Notes

The AUUC Choir will lead a mostly-music service on Sunday 11 June, which will include a lot of hymn singing and some choir-only pieces. There will be no rehearsal on Sunday 18 June, and our last choir rehearsal for the season will be on Sunday 25 June. Thank you to all of the choir members and instrumentalists who helped to make this year so rich musically!

Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry (COM) is continuing to schedule and host small-group 'Minister's Socials' at Rev. Dave's and Tim's house. Over time, we plan to give all church members the opportunity to attend one of these socials so they can get to know Dave and Tim in a more relaxed setting and ask any questions they might have about AUUC.

So far three socials have been held and about a quarter of the congregation has attended. The next one is scheduled for Monday evening, July 3rd. Children *are* invited.

We will continue the practice of inviting our members in order of newest to oldest. So, if you get an email or phone call from someone on the COM (Lisa Carvajal, Kathy Kozachenko or Pete McQuillin), that's most likely what we're calling or emailing about. When you get such an email or call, please RSVP indicating how many adults and children will attend, so we know how much to prepare in the way of snacks and drinks.



Sunday Services in June

June 4

Understanding Oppression

Zoe Engberg, Ben Hirtle and Shawn Lawson

Join us as three of our youth - Zoe Engberg, Ben Hirtle and Shawn Lawson – talk about their experiences at a recent anti-racism/anti-oppression workshop.

June 11

The Magical Musical Ministry Tour

Kiki Barley

Roll up as Kiki Barley and the Allegheny Choir lead us in a service of mostly music, as we wind up our music program year.

June 18

Communion Service 10:00 am

Reader: TBA

Monthly gathering that celebrates community.

Solstice with a Peruvian Twist 11:00 am

Linda Deafenbaugh

Linda Deafenbaugh, recently returned from a trip to Peru, will help us prepare for the Summer Solstice with a special ritual.

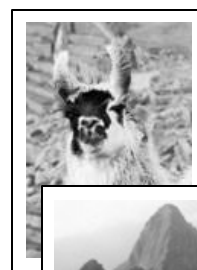
June 25

Marriage Equality

Dana Elmendorf

Dana Elmendorf, local activist and artist, will share her story about the quest to make marriage a right for *all* citizens, in this special post PrideFest service. This is the second of a series of services sponsored by our Welcoming Congregation Committee.

Sunday Service at Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church starts at 11 o'clock. Beginning in July, Sunday Services will start at 10:30 am. All are welcome!



Machu Picchu
City in the Clouds

Serving the Congregation in June

Greeters

June 4

Pete McQuillin

June 11

Lynn Glorieux

June 18

Jennifer Russell and Barry Tepperman

June 25

Andrew Schwarz

Refreshments

June 4

Pat Downey

June 11

Annual Church Picnic in North Park!

June 18

Could this be you? Talk to Ellen Kerr.

June 25

Paul Lawson



June 2006

				1 ▪ Tai Chi 8pm	2 Shavuot	3 Shavuot
4 ▪ Order Giant Eagle certificates ▪ Choir 9:30 am ▪ Service 11:00am	5 ▪ Welcoming 7pm ▪ NA 7pm ▪ Board of Trustees 7:30-9:30pm	6	7	8 ▪ PIIN meeting ▪ RE Committee 7:30pm ▪ Tai Chi 8pm	9	10
11 ▪ Pick-up Giant Eagle certificates ▪ Choir 9:30am ▪ Annual Church Picnic in North Park	12 ▪ NA 7pm	13	14 Flag Day	15 ▪ Tai Chi 8pm ▪ Shelter Meal 9pm	16 ▪ Newsletter Deadline	17 ▪ Pride Parade 12pm
18 Father's Day ▪ Communion Service 10:00am ▪ Service 11:00am	19 ▪ NA 7pm	20	21	22 ▪ Tai Chi 8pm	23	24
25 ▪ Choir 9:30 am ▪ Service 11:00am	26 Memorial Day ▪ NA 7pm	27 ▪ Program Committee 7:30pm	28	29 ▪ Tai Chi 8pm	30 ▪ Multi-Church Pot Luck Dinner 7pm	

July 2006

						1
2 ▪ Order Giant Eagle certificates ▪ Service 10:30am	3 ▪ Board of Trustees 7:30pm ▪ NA 7pm	4 Independence Day	5	6 ▪ Tai Chi 8pm	7	8
9 ▪ Pick-up Giant Eagle certificates ▪ Service 10:30am	10 ▪ NA 7pm	11	12	13 ▪ PIIN meeting ▪ Tai Chi 8pm	14	15
16 ▪ Communion Service 9:30am ▪ Service 10:30am	17 ▪ NA 7pm	18	19	20 ▪ Tai Chi 8pm	21 ▪ Newsletter Deadline	22
23 ▪ Service 10:30am	24 ▪ NA 7pm	25 ▪ Program Committee 7:30pm	26	27 ▪ Tai Chi 8pm	28	29
30 ▪ Choir 9:30am ▪ Rev. McFarland will conduct service at North Hills UU Church "Reality Based Ethics" ▪ Service 10:30am	31 ▪ NA 7pm					

Getting to Know 'U' at AUUC

A New Newsletter Feature

As part of an effort to create new and interesting features for our newsletter, we have decided to create a column titled *Getting to Know 'U' at AUUC*. The purpose of this column is to help everyone become better acquainted with each other.

To do this, we ask that everyone please respond to the questions on this page and place it in the *Getting to Know 'U' Box* located in the Emerson Room.

In the coming months, we will take responses from two members; one from a 'veteran' church member and one from a 'rookie' church member and print them side-by-side in the newsletter. In this way, we hope we can all become more familiar with each other and our congregation as a whole.

Extra question sheets will be available in the Emerson Room, next to the *Getting to Know 'U' Box*, so that each and every person has an opportunity to participate. Thank you.

What is your name? Is there a name you prefer to be called?

What year did you become a member?

Where were you born?

What is your best memory of childhood?

What brought you to Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church?

Getting to Know 'U' at AUUC continued

What is your favorite dessert?

What is your favorite book and/or movie?

Whom do you admire as a person? Why?

What goals are you working toward?

What's your favorite aspect of Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church?

Once again, thank you for participating in this new *Getting to Know 'U' at AUUC* feature of the *Allegheny Advocate* newsletter. Please don't forget to place your questionnaire in the box located in the Emerson Room. We look forward to sharing your answers.

What Do Growing Churches Look Like?

Empowering Leadership

Leadership is definite, strong and visionary, but also successful in facilitating, equipping and empowering others.

Gift-oriented Ministry

The leadership enables every member to discover and then exercise the gifts they have. This obviously begins with the conviction that each of us does in fact have gifts that the church community needs. Leaders and pew sitters alike need to come to that conviction, otherwise the discovery of these gifts simply will not happen.

Passionate Spirituality

Growing churches are those in which members go way beyond attendance at services and participation in selected programs of the congregation to actually living their faith with passion and contagious enthusiasm.

Functional Structures

Growing churches develop programs. But they have no patience (or money) for programs that do not satisfy spiritual needs or further their real mission. They are prepared to change things that no longer work.

Inspiring Worship Services

There is a difference between church services that are mere entertainment and those that really inspire. The key criterion to growth is whether the service inspires those who attend.

Holistic Small Groups

In a survey that included 4.2 million answers to a church growth survey, the most important characteristic of growing churches was the development of small groups in which people learn to apply their faith in a practical and personal way. These groups build relationships, they network people, and they are often the real catalyst of growth in the congregation.

Need-oriented Evangelism

In healthy, growing churches the gifts of members and the resources of the church are matched to the spiritual needs of the community or “pre-members” rather than serving only those who are already part of the congregation.

Loving Relationships

According to church growth research the ‘love quotient’ is calculated on the basis of hospitality and laughter in a congregation. Growing churches have a much higher ‘love quotient,’ than stagnant or declining ones. Real love among church members ‘spreads that mysterious scent that few can resist.’

Adapted from the research project of Christian Schwartz head of the Institute for Natural Church Development in Germany.

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Notes from Rev.Dave's Desk

Our Reverend Dave will be on Study Leave and then at the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly during the month of June.

Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church
1110 Resaca Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15212



The *Allegheny Advocate* is published monthly (except August) by Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church. Submissions must be received by the third Friday of the month preceding publication. Contributions or inquiries may be directed to Lisa Carvajal or Chris Stygar.

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Allegheny Unitarian
Universalist Church
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Contacts

Minister

Rev. David McFarland

Board of Trustees

John Engberg, President

Director of Religious Education

Kris Thomas

Director of Music

Kiki Barley

Finance

Bob Follette

Fund Raising

Linda Deafenbaugh

House

Donald Zeilman

Inreach Ministry

Sandra Kogut

Membership

Pat Downey

Program

Kathy Kozachenko

Religious Education

Kim Winbush

Social Justice

Jay Poliziani

Welcoming Congregation

Marie Engberg

Allegheny Web Site

www.alleghenyuu.org