



# What's Happening

MAIN LINE UNITARIAN

AUGUST 2018

## FAITH DEVELOPMENT 2018-2019

Registration is now open for children and youth classes beginning in September! If you have kids who will participate in our Sunday morning or evening religious education programming, please fill out this form ASAP: [www.tinyurl.com/faithdevelopment2018](http://www.tinyurl.com/faithdevelopment2018)

## MLUC BLOOD DRIVE

*Wednesday, August 22, 1:00-6:00 p.m.  
in the McGinness Room*

A, B, and O are our main blood groups. Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood - and that need is heightened now. But for the past four years, the number of new Red Cross donors has declined by about 80,000 each year. Many illnesses require frequent transfusions, thus the need for blood is ongoing. For tips on how to prepare to give blood, visit [www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/blood-donation-process/before-during-after.html](http://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/blood-donation-process/before-during-after.html).



## INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK NEWS

The Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) of the Main Line enables volunteers from local congregations to provide compassionate, temporary shelter for homeless families while social services connect them with resources to maintain affordable housing. IHN has been an important part of MLUC's social justice work for 9 years now. During that time, we have provided a safe place for more than 90 families to live while they got back on their feet financially. During the week of their stay, families typically arrive each evening for dinner. Church volunteers make and serve dinner, spend time in the early evening with our guests, or stay overnight at church to be available in case of an emergency.

Our next hosting will take place September 2 to September 9. We will have volunteer signups in the Atrium on Sundays after services beginning in late August. An IHN volunteer will be at the table to help you sign up, explain our program, or just say hello. If you've never volunteered before, this is a good time to talk with one of the coordinators about the program. We would love to see you. Some folks may still be on vacation for this hosting, so we need your help! You may also sign up online at [tinyurl.com/ihnsept](http://tinyurl.com/ihnsept).

*Together,  
We Transform Lives  
through  
Love, Service, and Our  
Welcoming Faith.*

## WHO WE ARE

Main Line Unitarian Church is a diverse and caring religious community engaged in a liberating ministry of spiritual growth, human compassion, and universal justice.

At our church we embrace all people, regardless of age, race, ability, politics, financial situation, or sexual orientation; encourage and nurture every individual in his or her own search for meaning in life; and commit to serve local and world communities in promoting peace, social justice, and responsible stewardship of the earth.



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## MINISTERIAL MUSINGS

### The Search for Meaning... in Movies

I think you know by now that I'm a movie buff. I like to watch movies, especially on the big screen. I like to discuss them, and I like to include them in sermons. For example, in a recent sermon, I mentioned one of my all-time favorites, *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*, in which I observed that Jack Nicholson's character, Randal McMurphy, is a minister. In fact, given the fact that he literally sacrifices himself for the freedom and dignity of the other patients, I would go so far as to call him a Christ figure.



Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones  
Senior Minister

Our 4th UU Principle affirms and promotes "a free and responsible search for truth and meaning." Squirrels, as far as we know, don't pause in the midst of gathering nuts and ask, "What's the meaning and purpose of my life?" The question of meaning and purpose is a distinctly human question, and it is a challenge for all of us. Some religious people may think they are exempt from this search because in their way of thinking, God has a master plan for the entire universe. Even if that is true, believers must still discern God's will for their lives. Whether or not you believe the universe has meaning, you must still figure out the meaning and purpose of your life. Unlike some religions, Unitarian Universalism does not assume that meaning is defined for all once-and-for-all by a sacred scripture, an official dogma, or a revered tradition. Meaning is discovered and created in the living of life itself, which means that meaning can be found wherever we live – at our job, home, school, and church; while working, playing, loving, grieving, conversing, arguing, serving, hoping, thinking, reading... and watching movies.

During the fall, I'd like us to watch a popular movie together each month and then discuss its meaning. It's likely that we may find different meanings because of the subjective nature of meaning. What's meaningful to you may or may not be meaningful to me, but that's what makes the discussion enriching and rewarding. I am presently putting together my list, and I'd like your help. Please send me your suggestions of movies you found to be meaningful, and please suggest a time when viewing and discussing a movie would fit your schedule. Given the fact that everyone is busy, I suspect that scheduling a movie time may pose the greatest challenge. I'm assuming that a weeknight would be the worst time. What about Friday night? Wouldn't that be a nice way to end the work week? Or would Saturday afternoon or evening be better? Please let me know at [neal@mluc.org](mailto:neal@mluc.org).

I look forward to seeing you at the movies next month.

Neal

## DAWNING THOUGHTS

I'm writing this just after my return from two weeks away with my family. We drove to Austin, Texas where much of my husband's family lives now. A lot of fun was had with cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents. We went to some museums and historical Sites, and, as it was very hot, we did a lot of swimming in a wide variety of local and hotel pools. I was not responding to church emails but I did read through them all (mostly after my return).



Dawn-Star Sarahs-Borchelt,  
Director of Lifespan Religious Education

My attention was caught by two conversations, mostly on the *Community Matters* email list: the one about an incident with a crying child in the worship services and the one about donuts being served before church. These are such juicy conversations! They prompt us to think about and recognize our feelings about big questions! Here are some things that occurred to me: What messages do you, as a community of faith, want to send to yourselves and those who seek us? What norms do you want to have about how we support parents in caring for and being able to set limits for their children? What does it mean here to offer radical hospitality?

I love these kinds of questions exactly because there is no one answer to them. We all have to individually and as a community wrestle with a variety of answers and try to figure out where we want to go with them.

Glad to be back with you,  
Dawn Star

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## THEOLOGY EXPLORERS (PREVIOUSLY BELIEVER'S DISCUSSION GROUP)

*Second Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m. in Greeley Library  
Led by group members*

This group searches for truth, meaning, and spiritual growth by discussing life's big questions. Through listening and sharing, we hope to gain wisdom and put our faith and ideals into practice.

Join this new group on Wednesday, September 12 when we will discuss the book *Why I Left, Why I Stayed - Conversations on Christianity between an Evangelical Father and his Humanist Son* by Tony and Bart Campolo. No registration required.

## SUNDAY SERVICES

*Services will be held at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted.*

### AUGUST 5: MEXICO

Megan Mathieson

*Music: Rachel Lee, piano*

In May of this year, Megan went on a trip with Borderlinks to visit the Mexican-Guatemalan border as well as our US border with Mexico. Join us as she shares her experience in the borderlands.

Megan is a third-year seminarian at Lancaster Theological Seminary and a member of UU Gettysburg. Megan, her wife, and their family live in East Berlin, PA. She currently serves as summer minister at UU Sterling, VA and will complete a full-time ministerial internship at UU Frederick, MD during the 2018-2019 school year.

### AUGUST 12: RECLAIMING SABBATH

Rev. Libby Smith

"Just to be is a blessing," said Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. But in our fast-paced world with its expectation that we be plugged in and ready to respond at a moment's notice, we have lost the art of "just being." Why is "remembering the Sabbath" the one commandment we consistently ignore?

Rev. Libby Smith was ordained in 1992 and has served congregations in Rockport, MA, Warrington, PA, and Langhorne, PA. Now retired from congregational service, she does occasional adjunct work for the Central East Region of the UUA and enjoys the chance to do pulpit supply and rites of passage on request.

### AUGUST 19: RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Rev. Andrew Weber

*Music: Keith Herron, trumpet*

Rev. Andrew recently returned from a two-week walking pilgrimage through Transylvania, the heartland of our free faith. Let us remind ourselves of those who came before us to ensure our right to worship and believe as we determine true. And let us be in solidarity with those who continue to labor for their right to openly and safely practice their faith as they choose.

### AUGUST 26: SOMETHING THERE IS THAT DOESN'T LOVE A WALL

John Smith

*Music: Schrödinger's Cats*

Walls come in many flavors. They are protectors, prisoners, carriers, and barriers. Throughout history, we have built them in physical space – and in our hearts too. Do we have the courage to look at what we have wrought?

John Smith is a longstanding member of the MLUC congregation. Together with his wife Susan, he has been engaged for many years in the life of the church and the larger community.

### JULY/AUGUST OFFERING OUTREACH

Radnor-A Better Chance (ABC), located in Wayne, is a community school of the national ABC program. The goal of Radnor-ABC is to develop leaders of tomorrow by providing students of color - who show strong academic and leadership potential in underserved communities - with a home away from home while they attend Radnor High School. Students complete a rigorous admissions process, are selected as eighth graders, and receive invitations to attend Radnor High School on a four-year scholarship. 94% of graduates go on to college. These scholars are a testament to the premise that high quality academic mentoring in a nurturing environment leads to a better life.



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## LIVING AND DYING WELL

In February, MLUC hosted its first HELLO event, introducing the game and its rules to participants. In September, we will again play HELLO - a conversational game about living and dying well. This interactive game helps participants clarify and articulate the values behind their healthcare decisions. Join other MLUC members in breaking the ice on this delicate topic. Stay tuned for details. Learn how to play the game at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2SRn8WjDCg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2SRn8WjDCg).



## SMALL GREAT THINGS BOOK DISCUSSION

*Sundays, October 7 and 21, 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*

The Racial Justice and Immigration Reform Committee will host a book discussion on *Small Great Things*, a novel by Jodi Picoult (2016). This is an accessible page-turner with discussion questions included at the back of the book. The *Washington Post* said, "Small Great Things is the most important novel Jodi Picoult has ever written. It will challenge readers and expand our cultural conversation about race and prejudice."

## NEW GROUP FOR SINGLE WOMEN, AGE 55+

Meeting quarterly, this group will explore ways to continue to live meaningful, connected, and productive lives as aging single women. We will strive to understand and support the variety of goals and experiences of women in this growing demographic. Our first meeting takes place **September 15, 5:00-8:00 p.m.** in the McGinness Room, light dinner provided. RSVP and/or send questions to [amycovill88@gmail.com](mailto:amycovill88@gmail.com) or [brandt-anne@aramark.com](mailto:brandt-anne@aramark.com).

## CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

This group will continue to meet during the summer on the first and third Monday of each month, 1:00-2:30 p.m. on August 6 and August 20. September 3 is Labor Day so we will NOT meet. We'll pick up again on September 17. All caregivers are welcome.

## UU COMMUNITY WEEKEND - REGISTER ASAP!

This weekend getaway is a unique opportunity to play, exercise, and relax together with old and new friends. It is a time of real vacation without having to cook, set the table, make the coffee, wash the dishes, or hover over the kids.

We also have a few traditional evening events for all who want to enjoy them. On the first night, we hold a big group campfire and make s'mores. On the second night, there is our enormously popular Talent Show where performers of all ages can participate, no talent required! The show is typically followed by board and card games of many kinds. Night-owl adults can later meet at campfires sharing stories, singing songs and sipping their libation of choice.

To get a better glimpse of what UU Community Weekend is all about, watch the preview video at [www.mluc.org/community/community-weekend](http://www.mluc.org/community/community-weekend). Register ASAP through the church website.

## COME IN A BIT EARLY AND ENJOY A BEVERAGE

MLUC will now serve coffee and donuts on Sundays at 9:15 before the 10:00 a.m. service. There will still be coffee served after the service.

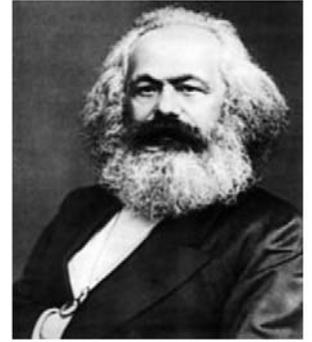


## MARX IN SOHO

*Sunday, September 23, at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room*

*Marx in Soho* is a one-man play written in 1999 by American historian Howard Zinn about the life of 19th-century philosopher Karl Marx. Zinn wrote the play to "show Marx as few people knew him, as a family man, struggling to support his wife and children." The play is set in the New York City neighborhood of Soho, a humorous nod to the London neighborhood of the same name in which Marx spent much of his life. Bob Weick, Philadelphia actor, Barrymore nominee, and Iron Age Theatre ensemble member, has taken *Marx in Soho* on the road all over the US.

This year, Weick will bring to life Marx, his family, and fellow revolutionaries in both London's Soho and New York's Soho - and MLUC's Main Meeting Room - in honor of Marx's bicentennial birthday. Purchase tickets online for \$10 each. Invite your friends & neighbors to this thought-provoking show! See a preview at <https://vimeo.com/227280774>



Karl Marx, the protagonist of *Marx in Soho*, in 1875

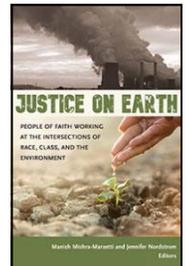
## INSIGHT BOOK GROUP

This fall, the group will read three selections that range from new releases to a beloved classic, journeying through lands and time. Our summer vacation read for September 20 is a vicarious trip around the world with Paul Theroux's *Figures in a Landscape*. This volume of travel essays is described as a wide-ranging and delectable collection of his recent writing on great places, people, and prose. Authentic sights, characters, and experiences range from Ecuador to Zimbabwe, from Thoreau to Graham Greene, from a helicopter ride with Elizabeth Taylor to exploring NYC with Robin Williams. Our October 18 selection is Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*, and our November 15 selection is *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee. Insight meets one Thursday per month at 7:00 p.m. Open to all interested MLUC readers. Contact Eileen Andrews ([jricka@verizon.net](mailto:jricka@verizon.net)) with any questions.

## UU COMMON READ

The Common Read for the coming church year (2018-2019) is *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and Environment*. At a time when racial justice, environmental justice, and economic justice are seen as issues competing for time, attention, and resources, *Justice on Earth* explores the ways in which the three are intertwined.

Learn more about Common Read books at [www.uua.org/books/read](http://www.uua.org/books/read).



## GREATER PHILLY CLUSTER (GPC) NEWS

### GPC Is Now on Facebook!

You can now follow and stay updated with UU news in the Philadelphia area at [www.facebook.com/greaterphillyuucluster](http://www.facebook.com/greaterphillyuucluster). You may also request to join their closed Facebook group, Greater Philly UUs.

### Save the Date: Joseph Priestley District Celebration

*September 22, all day at First Unitarian Church of Wilmington, DE*

Breakout sessions, speakers, and a celebration will be included. More details to come.

***Psssst! ... Making Your Annual Pledge is Easier Than Ever!***

Visit [mluc.org/support-your-church](http://mluc.org/support-your-church), fill out a quick form, and follow the instructions based on your preferred payment method. If you've already pledged, manage your payments/information anytime from [tinyurl.com/mlucpayments](http://tinyurl.com/mlucpayments).

## "SUMMER OURS" APPRECIATION

Members of OUR own Visual Arts Committee are showing their paintings, fabric art, collages, and found object wall pieces through the summer. Sabine Rehm, Chrystal Pilson, Ann Keech, Barbara Bugliani, Linda Farr, and Mary Kane are the artists represented. In addition, these talented and dedicated artists have organized unique displays from top area artists throughout the year. Hanging and labeling artwork, sending invitations to local artists, and managing sales that benefit the church. In addition, art shows bring in fresh faces to MLUC and expose them to UUism. Enjoy the art in the Fireside Room, men's, and women's rooms. Let the committee members know how you appreciate all they do by signing the book on the hutch. This show runs through September 12.



## THE GIFTS OF GRIEF: GRIEF AS SACRED WORK

*November 9-11 at Murray Grove Retreat Center*

Are you feeling overwhelmed by a personal loss? Are you feeling anxiety about global crises? These experiences need not result in despair or helplessness. We may resist grieving due to fears of getting stuck in our emotional pain. We might resign ourselves to "time heals all wounds." Many people do this. But in a supportive community, the experience of grieving can be made conscious and empowering. We can intentionally open to the unexpected gifts of meaning, joy, and purpose inherent in what we dread most. Visit [www.murraygrove.org/grief-rituals-retreat](http://www.murraygrove.org/grief-rituals-retreat).

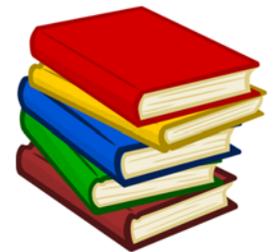
## COME MEET ISIS, LILITH, KUAN YIN, SPIDER WOMAN... AND MANY MORE!

Rise Up and Call Her Name, the UU Women & Religion course offering a fascinating journey into the sacred feminine around the world and throughout time, will be offered this coming church year. Rise Up travels through Africa, Asia, and the Americas to meet goddesses and explore their earth-based traditions. The curriculum includes both artistic and intellectual tools to help women develop fresh perspectives and deeper spirituality, inspired by their diverse foremothers. Each session features a variety of activities such as storytelling, ritual, hands-on crafts, personal sharing, music, dance, and chants.

The course will meet monthly, beginning Wednesday, September 19, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Interested participants may enroll at [www.tinyurl.com/riseupmluc](http://www.tinyurl.com/riseupmluc). Questions may be directed to Nuala Carpenter ([nualadenham@yahoo.com](mailto:nualadenham@yahoo.com)) or Eileen Andrews ([jricka@verizon.net](mailto:jricka@verizon.net)). Blessed Be!

## MLUC'S NEW BOOKSTORE

Stop by the Bookstore and browse the ever-changing selection donated by members and friends of MLUC. The prices are unbeatable: a dollar for hardcover, 50 cents for paperback, and 25 cents for all children's books. The Bookstore is located on the basement level, at the end of the hall beyond the elevator and is open every day after 4 p.m. and on weekends whenever the church is open. Donations may be left in the donation closet to the left of the book store. Please do not bring textbooks, outdated travel books, or books that are in poor condition (torn, dirty, or water-damaged). All proceeds from the bookstore go to our partner church in Vărfalva, Transylvania, Romania



**If MLUC is like family to you, please include it in your will.** Bequests of all sizes will support the church community and its work on behalf of justice, equity, compassion, religious freedom, and spiritual growth. For more information on planned giving, email [endowment@mluc.org](mailto:endowment@mluc.org)

## CANDLES OF COMMUNITY

*We express our support and concern for ...*

**Jim Kisela**, who has returned home from rehab at Dunwoody.

**Marjorie Gingles**, who has returned home after being hospitalized for a fall.

The family of **Nancy Wendell**, a founding member who died on July 25. Her memorial service will be held at MLUC at 2:00 on Saturday, September 15. She was 90.

*We express our congratulations to ...*

**Gina Trignani**, who has completed her Master of Science degree in Public Health Management and Administration at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Frank & Barbara Weber**, who become grandparents for the fifth time on July 18 when their daughter and son-in-law, Katrina Weber Ashour and Nabil Ashour, gave birth to Zaina (Zaynah) Magdalena Weber Ashour. All are doing great.

## BOARD BASICS TRAINING FOR CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS

*Saturday, August 11, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at UU Congregation of Monmouth County, Lincroft, NJ*

Board leadership in a UU congregation calls on a unique set of skills and attitudes. Not every person elected (no matter how enthusiastic they are!) comes to the work with a full sense of what it means to serve and the skills needed to serve well.

Congregations are encouraged to send a team of leaders, chosen from both newly elected and returning leaders, to attend this day-long workshop presented by staff from the Central East Region of the UUA. Learn more and register at [www.uua.org/central-east/events/region/board-basics-training-nj-18](http://www.uua.org/central-east/events/region/board-basics-training-nj-18).

## ELEMENTARY OWL TRAINING

*Friday, August 17 - Sunday, August 19 in Media, PA*

Our Whole Lives training will be offered for teachers of elementary-aged children (K-1 and 4-6) at the UU Church of Delaware County in Media. Our Whole Lives is an excellent, comprehensive sexuality education program that offers our young people the opportunity to explore their values and gain accurate information about topics that are often not easily accessible. This training begins at 3:00 p.m. on Friday and ends at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. Please be aware that attendance is required for all parts of the training for certification. Registration is limited to 20 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. **The deadline to register is August 8.** Learn more and register at [www.uua.org/central-east/events/region/elementary-owl-training-media-pa-2018](http://www.uua.org/central-east/events/region/elementary-owl-training-media-pa-2018).

## JR/SR HIGH OWL TRAINING

*Friday, August 17 - Sunday, August 19 in Pittsburgh, PA*

Our Whole Lives training will be offered for teachers of Junior/Senior High at the UU Church of the South Hills in Pittsburgh. The goal of this workshop is to prepare participants to implement the curriculum as well as the Sexuality and Our Faith component. This training begins at 3:00 p.m. on Friday and ends at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. Please be aware that attendance is required for all parts of the training for certification. Learn more and register at [www.uua.org/central-east/events/region/jr/sr-high-our-whole-lives-training-pittsburgh-pa-18](http://www.uua.org/central-east/events/region/jr/sr-high-our-whole-lives-training-pittsburgh-pa-18).

## UUPLAN LEADERSHIP DAY

*October 13, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg*

All Unitarian Universalists active or interested in social justice are invited to attend and participate in UUPLAN's Leadership Day. The day is intended for both seasoned social justice advocates and those with no previous social justice experience. Presenters will include Rev. Jones and Rabbi Michael Pollack of the March on Harrisburg and Daring Democracy.





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# MAIN LINE UNITARIAN CHURCH

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## ON THE WEB

The complete MLUC calendar of events is online at [www.mluc.org](http://www.mluc.org). Members can click the front page icon to request a room for their meeting or event.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

The newsletter of Main Line Unitarian Church is published 12 times a year. Submissions of 225 words or fewer are due on **August 10** for the September issue. Submit material to [news@mluc.org](mailto:news@mluc.org). To learn more about communications at MLUC, contact Brianna Johnson ([brianna@mluc.org](mailto:brianna@mluc.org)).