



What's Happening

MAIN LINE UNITARIAN



APRIL 2019

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Sunday, April 7

Working each day in the office, I get to see how many people are supported by the church or are serving to support others. People whose lives have hit a bump are regularly assisted, not only by staff, but by those who become impromptu coaches or simply empathetic listeners. There are new teachers and advisors in our faith development programming this year, and I don't have to say what a difference that makes in our children's lives.



Each week I meet people trying to find new ways to shape the changes we make in the world. They are inspiring in their willingness to keep trying. Each week I see the care and love given to people whose lives are approaching the end. And each Sunday I am reminded how much I love being a part of this community, and how filled with gratitude I am that MLUC is here for us and for all who come to visit or join us.

That gratitude is an important reason why my wife and I are moved to volunteer our time *and* annually pledge five percent of our income to the stewardship campaign. That level of support seems right for us. How about you? Have you thought about the level that feels right for you?

Rich Fritzon, Executive Director

*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.

PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP

Saturday, April 27, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Most new members come to Unitarian Universalism from other faiths. Having a basic understanding of the UU religion and the MLUC faith community you intend to join is an important first step toward becoming an active and integrated member of this church.

Please consider joining us for this session and get to know this welcoming, active, and caring community. You'll also have an opportunity to experience a Small Group Ministry session on April 28, 11:30-12:30. To RSVP, contact Membership Coordinator, Jessica Hirsch Lynn (jessica@mluc.org).



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MINISTERIAL MUSINGS

Welcoming the UUSC President and CEO

Allow me to introduce to you a vital ministry of our UU Association of Congregations. The UU Service Committee is a nonprofit, nonsectarian organization advancing human rights together with an international community of grassroots partners and advocates. The word 'partner' is especially significant. Rather than rush into a crisis as the outside 'expert,' telling locals what they should be doing, or worse still, doing things *for* them, the UUSC collaborates with grassroots organizations in the trenches, asking how they may help and following the lead of the locals. The UUSC acts as a partner, not a patron, supporting self-determination, defending individual rights, advancing social justice, confronting oppressive structures and policies, assisting people displaced due to climate, conflict, or economic hardships, and responding to humanitarian crises. Its work is grounded in our first UU Principle – that all people have inherent worth and dignity.

Some examples: documenting and publicizing human rights abuses in Burma, creating sustainable EcoVillages in Haiti after the earthquake, providing emergency relief to Rockport, Texas in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, protecting and integrating refugees from war-torn Syria, siding with those most vulnerable to climate change (i.e., rising sea levels, intensifying droughts, widespread flooding, food and water insecurity, mass displacement), promoting the safety of Central American migrants in their countries, on the migrant trail, and in the U.S., combatting the scapegoating of entire groups of people in the U.S. (Central American migrants, Muslims, LGBTQ people, and people of color) through mass incarceration, deportation, and over-policing. Through these initiatives and many more, the UUSC provides meaningful opportunities for UUs to take action with grassroots partners in affected areas. For example, several members from MLUC have visited the EcoVillages of Haiti.

Now allow me to introduce you to the UUSC President and CEO, the Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, who began her tenure less than a year ago. Rev. Morn brings a profound commitment to the work of justice, a focus on team-building, and considerable experience in our denomination. Before coming to the UUSC, she served as the minister of congregations in Texas, Alabama, Georgia, DC, and Virginia, most recently the UU Congregation of Fairfax, VA. She has served on panels for the UU Funding Program and as Vice President of the Executive Committee of the UU Ministers Association. She was the President of Senior Ministers of large UU Congregations and the Co-Chair of the UUA President's Council. In addition, she was the Director of Stewardship and Development and Special Advisor to the President of the UUA. That's quite a UUA resume!

The Reverend Morn will be our guest speaker on Sunday, April 28. I hope you will be present for that service and join me in welcoming this special guest.



Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones
Senior Minister

DAWNING THOUGHTS

This April, Earth Day comes one day after Easter, during Passover. Rama Navami (the celebration of the birth of Rama, an avatar of the God Vishnu) is a week earlier. Beltane is a week later, followed by Ramadan a week after that. In a Unitarian Universalist church, there is room for all of the stories each of us finds meaningful at this holy time of year. We recognize that we are part of the interdependent web of all existence, including all the religious stories human beings tell to create meaning from their experiences.

So during this month, when our theme at MLUC is Interdependence, we will tell some of those stories. The Easter morning service will tell the story of the origin of the universe, and the story of how we evolved from generations upon generations of single-celled organisms, fish, lizards, and so forth, and the story of Jesus's resurrection to remind us that we still have opportunities to start over again in our care for the Earth. We will hold a Passover Seder and hear the story of the Jewish people's exile and escape from slavery. I am not sure how we will acknowledge Rama or the pillar of Ramadan yet, but maybe we'll find new opportunities.

What stories bring meaning for you in the spring?

Dawn Star



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

APRIL OFFERING OUTREACH

Darby Creek Valley Association (DCVA) is dedicated to the protection and enhancement of all Darby Creek watershed's resources, including water, wildlife, historical sites, and the floodplain. The organization works to prevent all forms of pollution in the Darby Creek and its tributaries through education, stream monitoring, advocacy, and clean up programs. The Darby Creek watershed encompasses three counties in southeastern Pennsylvania (Montgomery, Delaware and Philadelphia), and the creek eventually flows into the Delaware River at Tinicum, PA. The creek can be viewed near MLUC at Saw Mill Park in Newtown Township, Skunk Hollow in Radnor Township and at Waterloo Mills (Brandywine Conservancy) on Waterloo Rd near Church Rd.

DCVA's 35th Annual Clean Up event will be held on April 13 with volunteers at 40 locations. See www.dcva.org and click "events" for additional information.

With Gratitude,
Neal

SUNDAY SERVICES

Services will be held from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

APRIL 7: THE VALUE OF MONEY

Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones

Music: MLUC Choir

No children's faith development classes

On this Stewardship Sunday, we will examine our relationship with money. What does money mean to you? Where do these thoughts and feelings come from? What would you like your money to say about you?

APRIL 14: UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SIN

Rev. Andrew Weber

There is a saying, "Universalists believe God is too good to damn us for our sins, and Unitarians believe humans are too good to sin." Whether because of the Divine or humanity, the fact remains that one seldom hears talk of sin in a UU setting. Is thinking about sin useful for a faith whose theology is based on self-worth and value? Whether you believe in sin or not, you are welcome to come, explore, be challenged, and be comforted.

APRIL 21: TELLING NEW STORIES: EVOLUTION, EASTER, AND EARTH DAY

Dawn Star Sarahs-Borchelt, Dr. Caroline Nielsen, Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones

Music: Multigenerational Choir

This service for all ages will tell some old stories and invite us to participate in telling new stories about the Earth and our place on it.

APRIL 28: LIVING HOPE, LIVING JUSTICE

Rev. Mary Katherine Morn (UUSC President & CEO)

Music: MLUC Choir

Since UUSC's founding, UUs have been fundamental to UUSC's work to advance human rights. With our shared values under threat, there is an even louder call to collaborate and even more we can accomplish together.

LECTURE LUNCHEON

This lecture on Wednesday, April 10 will be at Stoneleigh Gardens in Villanova. Please carpool. There will be a guided tour of the gardens starting at 10:30 from the parking lot on County Line Road. Wine and snacks in the manor house at 11:30; lunch at noon. Ethan Kauffman, Stoneleigh's Director for Natural Lands, will describe the design and construction of the gardens. Fred Haas, son of John and Chara Haas who gave their 42-acre estate to Natural Lands, will describe the unusual Stoneleigh Organ and play a few selections. Contact Tim Conahan (tim.conahan@gmail.com) to register by Monday, April 8.

FOLK SING

The next Folk Sing will take place Friday, April 5 at about 8:00 p.m. All who enjoy informal group singing are welcome to attend.

MAIN LINE UNITARIAN CHURCH
816 S. VALLEY FORGE ROAD, DEVON, PA 19333
PHONE 610-688-8332, FAX 610-964-1195
DEVONU@MLUC.ORG
WWW.MLUC.ORG

Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones
Senior Minister
ext. 12, neal@mluc.org

Richard Fritzson
Executive Director
ext. 15, rich@mluc.org

Dr. Vincent Craig
Music Director
ext. 22, vincent@mluc.org

Dawn Star Sarahs-Borchelt
Director of Lifespan Religious Education
ext. 23, dawnstar@mluc.org

Jessica Hirsch Lynn
Membership Coordinator
ext. 26, jessica@mluc.org

Brianna Johnson
Communications Coordinator
ext. 14, news@mluc.org

Jan Cauffman
Parish Nurse
ext. 16, jan@mluc.org

Mary Heil
Administrative Assistant
ext. 10, mary@mluc.org

Chelsea Brown
Childcare Coordinator
childcare@mluc.org

Bill Mullen
Accountant
ext. 17, bill@mluc.org

Ron D'Annunzio
Facilities Coordinator
ext. 20, ron@mluc.org

Tom Brady
Facilities Associate

David McEvoy
Facilities Assistant

A DAY APART: EXPLORING THE LABYRINTH AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Saturday, May 11, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at MLUC

Carmel Stabley, Veriditas Advanced Certified Labyrinth Facilitator, will lead us in this 4000-year old practice of reflective labyrinth walking. Come away with an understanding of the Baltic and Medieval labyrinth patterns, personalize your walk with intentions, and deepen your experience through a process called Key Word Journaling. Nurture your inner self and explore the benefits of walking this ancient path.

- All faith traditions & experience levels welcome
- Doors open at 9:30 for check-in
- MLUC Labyrinth Dedication to follow at 3:30 p.m.
- Suggested donation for the day: \$20
- Optional bag lunch \$10, includes sandwich, side, and cupcake; drinks, snacks, and fruit provided
- Space limited to 40 participants—Please register early!

Questions? Contact Sue Compton (suemcompton@gmail.com; 610-947-3699).
To register, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/adayapart>



INSIGHT BOOK GROUP

On April 18, the selected book will be *Warlight* by Michael Ondaatje, a novel shrouded in secrecy with unforgettable characters in post-WW2 London by the acclaimed *English Patient* author. On May 23, the selection will be *There, There* by Tommy Orange, a member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes who writes a powerful story of urban Indians attending a powwow. Insight is open to all interested readers. Email Eileen Andrews with any questions (jricka@verizon.net).

MORNING MEDITATION STUDY GROUP

New session beginning April 15 through June 15, Mondays, 7:00-8:00 a.m.

The MMSG is welcoming new members for our spring session. We are a small and congenial Buddhist study and meditation group that meets weekly on Monday mornings to discuss a book, chapter by chapter, and meditate together. Our book will be *Awakening the Luminous Mind* by Tenzin Wangyal Rinpoche, available on Amazon. Limited to 10 participants. To register, please contact Katrina Ogilby (katrinaogilby@gmail.com).

CALLING ALL SINGERS!

April 13, 12:00-5:00 p.m. at UU Church of Delaware County

Join us for a day of singing and fellowship with area UUs. The workshop will include group singing and specialized sessions. Each session will tackle one subject pertaining to singing. Participants will learn exercises/repertoire to increase vocal abilities. All abilities and talents welcome! For information, visit <http://www.greaterphillyuu.org/events/singersworkshop>.

MLUC GARDENING

Spring has arrived, and MLUC's gardens are awakening. We have come a long way from what they looked like last year at this time. A BIG thank you to all who pitched in, and thank you to all who have renewed their commitment. Now we need to finish plantings and do the maintenance. So this is a fresh call for garden volunteers. Most of the hard work is done, but there is still watering, weed-pulling, and trimming happy growers. Maybe health or family matters kept you from participating last year, but you have another shot this year! Email Priscilla Osgood (pg0420@gmail.com) or Sabine Rehm (sabine1rehm@gmail.com).



IHN AND MLUC: ENDING HOMELESSNESS ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

We are preparing to welcome our guest families for our second Interfaith Hospitality Network hosting of 2019, which runs April 14 through April 21. Three additional hostings will follow, scheduled for the weeks of 5/26, 7/28, and 10/13. Opportunities for volunteers are available, and signups are now open at <http://mluc.org/social-action/interfaith-hospitality-network> (click the corresponding date). We will also be in the Atrium after services for signups. Please join us in welcoming our guests! Training will be made available as needed for new volunteers. Please contact us at IHN@mluc.org with any questions.

- Bob Batt and Donna Monturo, MLUC Coordinators

UUPLAN 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, April 26 through Saturday, April 27 at Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of York, PA



Don't get discouraged by the world's problems; get inspired! All are welcome to attend and learn how we can organize for social justice, inspire others to join us, and nourish our spirits as we bring UU values to the public square in PA. The event will begin on Friday evening at 5:00 p.m. and will conclude on Saturday at about 3:00 p.m. Paula Cole Jones will speak on building "Communities of Communities" and elevating voices that are not always heard. Friday will include dinner, fellowship, and an improv presentation on privilege by the River Crossing Playback Theater. Saturday will include an effectiveness panel and a Justice Team Leader Panel Discussion. To learn more, see a schedule, and register, visit <https://www.uuplan.org/>

THEOLOGY EXPLORERS

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

This group searches for truth, meaning, and spiritual growth by discussing life's big questions. The April 10 meeting has been **cancelled** due to a schedule conflict. The next meeting will be on May 8 to discuss The Reason For God - Belief in an Age of Skepticism by Timothy Keller. No registration required.

ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK

Saturday, April 13, 5:15-7:30 p.m.

There are only three potlucks left in this church year! Bring your favorite dish and RSVP at: <http://tinyurl.com/aprilpotluck1>. All ages are welcome.



Pssst! ... Making Your Annual Pledge is Easier Than Ever!

Visit 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.

MEMBERS ART SHOW

April 7 - April 28

Looking to discover hidden artistic talents in the MLUC community? Our members art show will be on display in the Fireside Room through the month of April. This year's theme is: What I Care About. This may include subjects that speak to the environment, justice and peace, the people or places we love, or whatever moves and inspires one to create. Be sure to take a moment to browse around the exhibit one Sunday this month.

CONVERSATIONS ON AGING

The Conscious Aging program has concluded, but in its place has emerged a new group that will continue with a wider, changing focus. All are welcome to join. The discussions will involve support, education, enrichment, and possibly community activism! We will meet once monthly on the last Wednesday from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Gatherings will be facilitated by the Parish Nurse, Jan Cauffman RN MSN and group members, with future meeting topics selected by the group. We anticipate occasional outside speakers too. Keep an eye out for each month's discussion topic! No RSVP needed. Email jan@mluc.org with any questions about the group.

NEW HOPE CELEBRATES PRIDE PARADE

Saturday, May 18, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (meet at 11:00 a.m.)

Local UU congregations have participated in this parade for the past 7 years, joining other faiths in affirming and promoting the inherent worth and dignity of every person. If you plan to join in, please contact welcoming@uufwb.org or find UU Fellowship of Lower Bucks members in the staging area by 11:00 a.m. on the day of the parade.



For more information, visit: <http://www.greaterphillyuu.org/events/new-hope-celebrates-pride-parade-2019/>

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

SGM is a unique experience that differs from Adult Religious Education, study groups, social networks, support groups, and anything else you do at church or in the community. SGM invites people into deeper, more constant and reverent relationships. It has the capacity to profoundly transform and strengthen our lives. Through listening and sharing, Small Group Ministry helps each person discover what they truly value. Contact Jenny Campbell at jenny@campbell-collaboratives.com.

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

CANDLES OF COMMUNITY

We express our support and concern for ...

Tim Conahan, whose brother died suddenly in early March.

Marile Marshall, whose friend, Gary Fawcett, had surgery for lung cancer on March 11.

The family of Terry Johnson, who died at West Chester Hospice on March 15.

Ellen Youngdahl, who had surgery on March 19.

Mark Demitrack, who had rotator cuff surgery on March 22.

Mert & Kathy Landay, who have returned home after being in Florida this winter. Mert has been struggling with respiratory problems all winter and is still recovering.

We express our congratulations to ...

Jim & Wendy Schmid, who played their cellos with the Lansdowne Symphony at the Kimmel Center on March 12 for an award ceremony sponsored by the Office of International Affairs of Temple University. The ceremony honored our own **John Smith** for his accomplishment in making Philadelphia the nation's first World Heritage City as chair of the Global Philadelphia Association.

John Dent & Leanne Wagner, who welcome the arrival of a new grandson, Jack Thomas Dent.

WORSHIP VISUALS

Claudia McBride, Beth Rittenhouse, and Kathy Landay have been graciously decorating our chancel wall in the Main Meeting Room with worship visuals for our Sunday services, and they would like two kinds of help:

- ♦ Resources. We have a lot of artistic talent at MLUC, and we have frequently drawn on that talent for worship visuals. If you have paintings, quilts, sculptures, or other pieces of art in your possession (whether you created them or not), and you are willing to lend them to worship visuals for a month, please email a photo of your art to Claudia.
- ♦ Hands-on effort. If your SGM small group, book group, social action team, committee, RE class, or any other church group would like to decorate the chancel wall with worship visuals for a month (the same visuals would be on display for all four Sundays), please let Claudia know. She, Beth, and Kathy would gratefully help your group.

Everything we do at MLUC requires a team effort, including our worship services.

With appreciation,
Neal

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Registration and housing reservations for GA open on March 1! This year's event will take place June 19-23 in Spokane, Washington. The theme is "The Power of We." The power, possibility, purpose, struggle, and joy of finding the path forward together as Unitarian Universalists will be explored. Attendees will leave inspired, with the tools needed to carry on the work into their own congregations and communities. Visit <http://www.uua.org/ga>.



MAIN LINE UNITARIAN CHURCH

816 SOUTH VALLEY FORGE RD · DEVON PA 19333

PHONE 610-688-8332

FAX 610-964-1195

WWW.MLUC.ORG



ON THE WEB

The complete MLUC calendar of events is online at 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 **April 10** for the May issue. Submit material to news@mluc.org. To learn more about communications at MLUC, contact Brianna Johnson (brianna@mluc.org).