

# AlleghenyADVOCATE

Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church's Monthly Newsletter

From Reverend  
Dave's Desk

Walking down Palo Alto Street on a very cold, supposedly Spring afternoon, I saw my Easter sermon in the flesh—flower flesh, anyway. It was a row of daffodils along the sidewalk. They had been fooled into blossoming by a week of “Spring” toward the end of Winter. It looked like they’d been lashed by high winds or slashed by someone either through neglect or malicious intent. Either way, since it was in the middle of a cold snap, I knew that some of the flowers—if not entire plants— simply wouldn’t make it.

The ones that bent only a bit would be fine. Those that were collapsed on the sidewalk might be goners. But the flowers that had been totally severed from the plant were sure to be food for freeze-hearty bugs or molds or bacteria. The chances they would thrive and blossom again once Spring really returned depended on the degree to which they were attached to their roots, their supply of soil and water; in other words, how well they remained attached to their source.

Like those daffodils, when we are fully engage in beloved community, we are grounded. Beloved community attaches us to our deepest roots. *Beloved community keeps us connected to our Source.*

For those of you who have been visiting and would like to connect more deeply, we will be celebrating a New Member Welcoming in the service on May 6, 2007. Talk to me or another member about what membership at Allegheny means. For members who’ve been feeling a little disconnected, the New Member Welcoming is a great opportunity to renew your membership vows.

See you in church.

*Reverend Dave*

May 2007

**From the President  
of the Board of  
Trustees**

I'm beginning to think that sitting down to write my column for the Advocate somehow jinxes our weather. I'm writing a little early this month as I will be heading off to the Ohio-Meadville District Assembly the weekend of April 20 & 21, but here I am on April 14 again listening to a weather forecast of possible snow!

The fifth principle in the list of Unitarian Universalist Principles is "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large". Your opportunity to enact this principle is arising again on May 6 at our Annual Congregational Meeting. Several of the members who have joined recently have asked me what the obligations of membership include. To me, exercising your right to participation in the democratic process within our congregation is one of the chief duties of a member.

I often hear members discussing decisions that have been made or the direction of programs within the congregation. Sometimes the discussion I hear has a very positive tone, however at times I hear the chords of dissatisfaction. Here is your opportunity to participate in the process of making those decisions and determining the direction of AUUC as we move forward.

One of the definitions of democracy in Webster's is "government by the people; esp: rule of the majority". Remember, democracy does not mean everyone gets their way, but they do get their say. What the majority deems to be the most beneficial to the whole is then the route of action taken. The Annual Meeting is a chance for everyone to have their say, so that we may arrive at a thoroughly grounded and informed majority opinion.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Annual Congregational Meeting of Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church on Sunday 6 May at 12:00!

*Ed Kinley*

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held downstairs in Founders Hall, on Sunday 6 May 2007 at 12:00 p.m. following Sunday service. There are several important issues on the agenda, including a vote on whether to continue with a 10:30 a.m. service time and the election of trustees. Please make an effort to attend, as a quorum of two-fifths of the current membership is necessary in order to conduct a vote. New members are encouraged to attend and participate, but should be aware that under our bylaws, only members 18 years or older who have been members for at least 90 days may vote.

## **Annual Congregational Meeting**

Mark your calendars for June 10th 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. More information to follow.

## **Annual Picnic**

Shelters and pantries are famously full around the holidays. Volunteers need to be turned away. Turkey dinners go untouched. Many of us are fortunate to be pretty sure that we'll know where our meals come from all year round. So why not Thanksgiving in spring?

## **Thanksgiving in Spring??**

Shelter Meal coordinator Willie Dawson and volunteers will be joining Rev. Dave on Sunday 20 May 2007, for his message on "Thanksgiving in Spring." That Sunday, we will take a "Grocery Bag Collection" as part of the service.

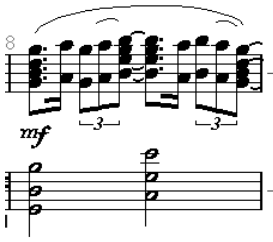
Please pick up grocery bags--complete with a handy list of items that the NSCM Food Pantry really needs--at the church. Bring them filled on May 20th.

Get your friends & neighbors involved! Just pick up an extra bag for them. They can give it to you to return. Or you can invite them to church to return it themselves!

Happy Thanksgiving!



## AUUC Choir News



The Family Choir will rehearse at 9:45am on Sunday 6 May and Sunday 3 June. The family choir and adult choir will both participate in the service on Sunday 6 May.

The Adult Choir will present its annual service on Sunday 10 June, just before the picnic. We will sing many songs from a broad spectrum of styles and involve the congregation in lots of singing, too.

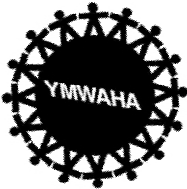
## Special Screening



A documentary film about the abduction of Ugandan children by rebels to train them to be fighters. This 45 minute film will be followed by discussion, then informal socializing with ethnic foods and other refreshments.

FREE at Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church in Founders Hall on Saturday 12 May at 7:30pm

## Walk for YMWAHA



The Walk for a Healthy Community, presented by Highmark, is scheduled for Saturday 19 May 2007 at Heinz Field. Register at 7:15 am; the 5K Walk begins at 8:30 am. The One-Mile Fun Walk begins at 8:45 am. YMWAHA will receive 100% of the money raised with your sponsorship. To register, call AUUC member Gloria "Liz" Skillings or go to <[www.walkforahealthycommunity.org](http://www.walkforahealthycommunity.org)>

## DownUnder Coffeeshouse



*Tamon Oshimo*

The DownUnder Coffeeshouse welcomes Tamon Oshimo and his band, playing in a variety of jazz styles, including Latin, swing, funk and fusion on Saturday 19 May at 7:30pm.

Don't be surprised to see several special guests joining in throughout the night. Suggested donation is \$5. Desserts and coffee will be available during the concert.

This will be the last DownUnder show for the season, so don't miss it.

# AUUC May Events

## Tuesday 1st

- 12 pm Oakland Lunch Bunch
- 7:00 - 9:30 pm Evolution Workshop - Michael Dowd, former minister will give his renowned presentation on Evolution and Religion.

## Thursday 3rd

- 8:00 pm Tai Chi Class

## Saturday 5th

- 11:00 am Peace Vigil in front of church

## Sunday 6th May:

- 9 am Choir Practice
- 9:45 am Family Choir Practice
- 10:30 am Sunday Service
  - **Speaker:** Reverend David McFarland  
*Building the Soul of Beloved Community*  
(New Member Welcoming and High School Graduates Celebration)
  - **Greeters:** TBA
  - **Refreshments:** Greg Blackman and Lynn Glorieux
- Order Giant Eagle certificates
- 12:00 pm Annual Meeting

## Monday 7th

- 7 pm NA Meeting
- 7 pm Board of Trustees

## Thursday 10th

- 7 pm PIIN Board
- 7:30 pm RE Committee
- 8 pm Tai Chi Class

## Saturday 12th

- 11 am Peace Vigil in front of church



# AUUC May Events

- 7:30 pm *"The Invisible Children"* A film about the abduction of Ugandan children by rebels. This 45 minute documentary film will be followed by discussion, then informal socializing. Ethnic foods and refreshments served. FREE

## Sunday 13th May:

*Mothers Day - No RE today*

- 9 am Choir Practice
- 10:30 am Sunday Service
- **Speaker:** Michelle Quinlan  
*"Raising Our Children"*
- **Greeters:** Andy Schwarz and Friend
- **Refreshments:** Kathy Graham and Charlie Snowden
- Pick up Giant Eagle certificates

## Monday 14th

- 7 pm NA Meeting

## Thursday 17th

- 8 pm Tai Chi Class
- 9 pm Shelter Meal

## Friday 18th

*Newsletter Deadline!*

## Saturday 19th

- 7:30 am YMWAHA Walk - Heinz Field
- 11 am Peace Vigil in front of church
- 7:30 pm DownUnder Coffeehouse - Tamon Oshimo and his band

## Sunday 20th May:

- Deadline for Annual Meeting Information
- 9 am Choir Practice
- 9:30 am Communion Service
- 10:30 am Sunday Service
- **Speaker:** Reverend David McFarland  
*Thanksgiving in Spring* (Grocery Bag



Collection day for North Side Common  
Ministry Food Pantry)

- Greeters: TBA
- Refreshments: Pat Downey and Barbara Stolarz
- 12:00 pm What We Are About - This session will provide a brief history of Allegheny and information about becoming more involved in this congregation. Whether you have only visited once or twice or have been coming regularly for the last six months, please join us for this informative and enjoyable event.

### **Monday 21st**

- 7 pm NA Meeting

### **Thursday 24th**

- 8 pm Tai Chi Class

### **Saturday 26th**

- 11 am Peace Vigil in front of church

### **Sunday 27th May:**

- 9 am Choir Practice
- 10:30 am Sunday Service
- **Speaker:** Betty Schwarz  
*"Remembering Eric"* Betty will pay tribute to her grand-nephew Eric Herzberg, a Marine who lost his life in Iraq. In doing so, we will pay tribute to all those who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- **Greeters:** Lisa Carvajal & Chris Stygar
- **Refreshments:** Kathy Kozachenko and Sara Lickey

### **Monday 28th**

*Memorial Day*

- 7 pm NA Meeting

### **Thursday 31st**

- 8:00 pm Tai Chi Class

### **Saturday 2nd**

- 11:00 am Peace Vigil in front of church

# **AUUC May Events**



# AUUC June Events

## Saturday 2nd

- 11:00 am Peace Vigil in front of church

## Sunday 3rd June

- 9:00 am Choir Practice
- 9:45 am Family Choir Practice
- 10:30 am Sunday Service
  - **Speaker:** Reverend David McFarland  
To Bloom Where You're Planted, You've Got to Be Planted (Flower Communion)
  - **Greeters:** TBA
  - **Refreshments:** TBA
- Order Giant Eagle certificates

## Monday 4th

- 7 pm NA Meeting
- 7 pm Board of Trustees

## Tuesday 5th

- 12 pm Oakland Lunch Bunch

## Thursday 7th

- 8:00 pm Tai Chi Class

## Saturday 9th

- 11:00 am Peace Vigil in front of church
- Board & Chairs Retreat

## Sunday 10th June

- 9:00 am Choir Practice
- 10:30 am Sunday Service
  - **Speaker:** TBA
  - **Greeters:** TBA
  - **Refreshments:** TBA
- Pick up Giant Eagle certificates
- Adult Choir Annual Service
- **Church Picnic!**

*Note: In order to provide a more stable and reliable schedule, the Advocate prints only five to six weeks of upcoming events.*



We are delighted to announce that the Reverend Joan Van Becelaere has accepted the offer to serve as District Executive for the Ohio Meadville district, beginning this July.

Joan currently serves as the Vice President for Student Services at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado. In addition to her other duties, she has taught Unitarian Universalist Polity at Iliff and was the denominational support liaison for the Iliff UU students. Joan has also served on the Mountain Desert District Leadership Development Team, the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association Professional Development team (CENTER), and served as the CENTER Liaison for the UUMA Executive Committee.

Our thanks to the Ohio Meadville Search Committee for their work in service to our faith: Bob Rudolph, Brad Taylor (chair), Lucy Carney, Pat Moyer, and the Rev. Wayne Arnason.

Please join us in welcoming Joan to this new role.

Rev. Harlan Limpert, Director, District Services  
Donald "DZ" Zeilman, President, Ohio-Meadville District

Join us for a very special service on Sunday 6 May when Rev. Dave's sermon will be about "Blessed Community" and we will be welcoming 10 new members to our congregation.

New members include: Jena McDonough, Melissa Delduca, Karen Zoller, Elizabeth Heltman, Kathy Hoyt, Isabella Cederquist, Lynne Forges, Kathleen Dahl, Jan Hayden and Regis Schilken.

This service will also honor six of our youth as they complete the educational rite of passage known as High School Graduation. The youth include: Zoe Engberg, Ben Hirtle, Caitlin Thomas (Spring '06), Tamon Oshimo, Pria Meikle, and Bennett Kaufman.

Please join us for this wonderful service that will honor the journeys of these individuals and celebrate our community.

## Ohio Meadville District News



## Blessed Community



## Thank God for Evolution

*“Way beyond cool! This was the best presentation I have ever seen in my life...A logical and inspirational description of how science and spirituality intersect in the common plane of humanity.”*

*How Science Will Usher Religion into Its Greatness* by Michael Dowd, former pastor and Connie Barlow, scientific author.

The Great Story is a way of telling the history of everyone and everything that honors & embraces all religious traditions and creation stories. It is the sacred narrative of an evolving universe that offers each of us the opportunity to find meaning and purpose in our lives & our time in history.

Workshop on Tuesday 1 May at 7pm by Michael Dowd

At Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church in Founders Hall Free sponsored by Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church Refreshments available.

For child care call 412-882-9050

## Finance Update



	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Offerings for March	\$ 6,135	\$ 5,813
FY 2007 9 mos. YTD	\$52,059	\$58,063

More information will be provided in the Treasurer report at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday 6 May 2007.

*Kathy Graham  
Treasurer*

## What We Are About



Several times throughout the year the Membership Committee sponsors a “What We Are About” session for newcomers to Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church. The next is scheduled for Sunday 20 May following the social hour at approximately 12:00 pm in the Emerson Room. This session will provide a brief history of Allegheny and information about becoming more involved in this congregation. Whether you have only visited once or twice or have been coming regularly for the last 6 months, please join us for this informative and enjoyable event.

## AUUC Contacts

### Minister

Rev. David McFarland

### Board of Trustees

Ed Kinley, President

### Director of Religious Education

Kris Thomas

### Director of Music

Kiki Barley

### Finance

Bob Follette

### Fund Raising

Linda Deafenbaugh

### House

Donald Zeilman

### Membership

Pat Downey

### Program

Kathy Kozachenko

### Religious Education

Lynn Yocum

### Social Justice

Jay Poliziani

### Allegheny UU Web Site

[www.alleghenyuu.org](http://www.alleghenyuu.org)

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 at [stygarjal@comcast.net](mailto:stygarjal@comcast.net)

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**WE ARE A SPIRITUALLY DIVERSE, ACTIVIST CONGREGATION**

