



*Allegheny*ADVOCATE

Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church's Monthly Newsletter

Message from the President of the Board of Trustees

For those of you who have been scarce over the summer months – welcome back. For those of you who have been with us all summer – please, make room in the pews and catch up with old friends and new guests. You may notice that we have added some additional pews to the sanctuary and we want to make the most of that added seating. We need to remember that guests to our church want to feel like they have a place to fit in, both metaphorically and physically. So I am reminding all friends and members to please move up a little and squeeze in a little so all will feel welcome.

Another important way to be welcoming is to have safe facilities in good repair. With safety as our chief concern, the board is moving to repair the falling plaster in the rear of the Sanctuary. We are now confident that a repair to these areas will be lasting since early in the summer we had the roof repaired with the help of a generous grant from the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation.

Unfortunately during that repair work, we had that severe 20 year rainstorm which resulted in additional water damage. Because of that however, we are also the beneficiaries of some \$3,800 in insurance monies for repair of those new damages. Seeing an opportunity to satisfy it's responsibility to restore safety to the rear of the sanctuary by making the most of those insurance funds and the presence of the crew making the repairs, the board is committing the full \$5000 facilities repair budget and an additional \$1200 in order to repair all water damage (both old and

September 2009

**Message from the
President of the
Board of Trustees**
continued

new) in both the Emerson Room and Sanctuary as well as paint the ceiling of the Sanctuary. Considering the great positive impact of stopping the falling plaster and preserving those repairs with a beautiful new coat of paint—the board feels it is honoring it's stewardship responsibilities while making the most of our financial resources. If you have any questions about this or any other board activities, please don't hesitate to contact me or any of the other board members.

Regards,
Chris Stygar

**Ingathering Potluck
Sunday 13**



Tasty, tasty potluck!

Immediately after the Water Communion Service by Rev. Dave, please feel free to join with us in our annual Ingathering Potluck event.

Bring along a favorite dish, ready to eat, or help out by washing a plate or two! It's a great way to catch-up with friends and acquaintances after our first fall service following everyone's summer travels or vacations. There's a sign-up sheet in the Emerson Room and one on-line at the church's Yahoo Group website.

We look forward to seeing you in Founder's Hall!

New to UU?

New to UU? Check with Rev. Dave about a "New to UU Small Group." Six sessions this fall based on the book by the Rev. Forrest Church and former UU Association President, the Rev. John Buehrens, "A Chosen Faith." We'll keep you posted.

**Save the Date:
11 October 2009**

Save the Date: Sunday 11 October 2009
Congregational Year-Beginning Conversation on Church Life What will this decisive year bring?
12 Noon-1:30PM

There are some exciting events coming up for the Racial Justice Ministry this fall! On November 2nd we will hold our annual All Souls Vigil to recognize those who have been victims of gun violence in the neighborhood. There will be a short service at Allegheny followed by a candle-light vigil through the neighborhood. We will also be hosting an anti-racism workshop with facilitators from the Unitarian Universalist Association in November. Join with us to help us achieve our goals! If you are interested in helping us promote racial justice on the North Side, please email Jay Poliziani or Liz Dell.

Racial Justice

On September 8th members from the congregation will begin visiting the kids at Jefferson Recreation Center. Many people from the congregation have participated in activities at the Center and the kids really look forward to our visits! We generally go on the first and third Tuesdays of the month) from 5:30-7pm.

Tuesdays at the Jefferson Recreation Center

Send an email to Jay Poliziani or Kim Winbush for directions or if you have any questions. We can't wait to see you there!

Allegheny UU Church's Religious Education Program for our children will begin on Sunday 20 September. Until then, childcare will continue to be available in Founders Hall for children ages eighteen months to twelve years. Please contact Kris Thomas if you are interested in assisting with Sunday morning childcare and connecting with our congregation's children.

Religious Education begins in September

Membership and Fellowship



Members of this church community should look for some new changes in our Fellowship Hour which follows after each service. This is the time when we all enjoy some refreshments as a community.

Fellowship Hour is the opportunity to create the welcoming atmosphere that we know makes our congregation unique and inviting to friends, guests and regular visitors.

Please feel free to ask any of the membership committee members, Jill Brethauer, Lisa Carvajal, Ellen Kerr, Betty Schwarz, Jane Schwarz and Anne Thompson for how YOU can sign-up for a Sunday that works best for you beginning this fall. After initial sign-up, we will begin assigning Sundays to the members of the congregation who have not yet signed-up.

Money for Ink Cartridges



This is an update on the Allegheny UU Church ink cartridge fundraising program.

Thanks to Alex West, we have found a really good local source: Cartridge World at 536 Smithfield St. They are friendly and helpful and immediately pay \$1 cash for each ink cartridge brought in. If you work in that area, you can take in your own cartridges and donate the money to the church if you would like. Or bring them to church and Jeanne Zang or Lynn Glorieux will recycle them for you. The church recently earned \$50 from this program. If we all pitch in, we could earn much more. If you have questions, contact Jeanne Zang.

Studies have shown that meditation/prayer can have an impact on reducing violence. You are invited to participate in a "ONENESS Prayer/Meditation" in support of global unity from September 11 to 25, prior to and during the G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh. The suggested text for the Prayer/Meditation is:

"We now open our hearts to the unity and interconnectedness of all people. This unity transcends belief systems and political polarities. We affirm the inherent divinity within every individual. We Are All One – one planet, one world, one body of humanity, one Spirit. We support and encourage peaceful, creative collaboration at the G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh and in all interactions large and small everywhere. We hold the vision that everyone is heard and no one is hurt.

With conscious intention in prayer and meditation, we connect with love and embrace all people in heart, mind and spirit, creating a wave of uplifting energy that radiates across the planet. We envision citizens and leaders from all countries opening to their innate wisdom and awakening new pathways for global peace, prosperity and sustainability. In deep gratitude, love and peace, we honor the truth of our divinity. And so it is."

This prayer/meditation invitation is being distributed to various faith communities and individuals in Pittsburgh, and throughout the USA and the world. Suggested times are 1:00, 3:00 and/or 7:00, either a.m. or p.m., in your local time zone. The text is also available at <www.peaceburgh.com>. If you prefer to choose other words for your meditation, or simply to embrace thoughts of a peaceful G-20 Summit from September 11 to 25, your participation is welcomed. Thoughts make a difference.

Kathy Graham

**Peaceful
G-20 Summit in
Pittsburgh
ONENESS
Prayer/Meditation**



LGBT Parent's Day Picnic



There are many different kinds of parents. In celebration of National Parents Day on July 26th, a group of about a dozen Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT) headed families congregated in the park right across from our church. Allegheny UU Church members helped coordinate and publicize the event which provided families from as far off as Erie a chance to meet other LGBT families and hopefully build lasting connections. The local group Families Like Ours <PGHFLO@yahoo.com> helps bring LGBT families together and helps kids from those families see that there are many other LGBT headed households out there. If you want to get involved in helping with possible future activities and events, check with Rev. Dave or Jay Poliziani.

Allegheny UU Church's On-line Directory

If you are a member of Allegheny UU Church, you can now access our on-line directory to simply look up an individual's information, or to print your own paper directory. (Please note: The resulting printed directory is formatted differently than our annual published directory.)

Directions for logging in can be gotten from Betty Schwarz or Lisa Carvajal. Once in the system, you can search for fellow members, print out lists of members or view the entire congregation.

If/when you see any mistakes, please let Betty Schwarz know.

Every Sunday at Allegheny:

- 10:30 am Sunday Service

Sunday 6 September

- Pick Up Giant Eagle certificates
- 2:00 pm NA Regional Meeting

Sunday 13 September

- 10:30a Story for All Ages Service

Speaker: Rev. David McFarland

Ingathering & Water Communion

What Becomes a Home Most?

Rev. Dave explores our church as a spiritual home as we gather for our annual Water Communion and open our almost 100-year-old doors to the Mexican War Streets House Tour.

Refreshments: *Ingathering Potluck in Founders Hall immediately follows the service.*

- 11 AM Mexican War Streets House Tour
- 6:30 PM Theologies Small Group

Sunday 20 September

- 9:30a Communion Service

Speaker: Rev. David McFarland

Roots, Give Us Wing!

Introducing a year exploring our Unitarian Universalist history and heritage, Rev. Dave celebrates the reminder of possibilities the Jewish High Holy Days bring.

Refreshments: Ellen Kerr

- 12 PM Allegheny Leadership Council Mtg
- 6 PM Anne Feeney Concert

Sunday 27 September

Refreshments: The Stygar Family

- Order Giant Eagle certificates

Allegheny UU Church September



September

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1 5:30p Jef Rec AUUC Night 6p Sandwich Making	2 7p BOT Mtg	3 6:30p Girl Scout Mtg 7p Green Burial Pgh Mtg 8p T8p Tai Chi	4	5
7 7p NA Mtg	8 5:30p Jef Rec AUUC Night 6p Sandwich Making	9 7:30p Choir Practice	10 7p PIIN Board 8p Tai Chi	11	12
14 7p NA Mtg 7p CNNC Mtg.	15 6p Sandwich Making 6p Anne Feeney Concert 7p MWSS Mtg 7p Finance Cmtee Mtg	16	17 8p Tai Chi 8:30p Shelter Meal	18	19 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 9a Clippinger Workshop
21 7p NA Mtg	22 6p Sandwich Making	23 6p Girl Scout Mtg 7:30p Choir Practice	24 8p Tai Chi	25	26
28 7p NA Mtg 7p Exe. BOT Mtg	29 6p Sandwich Making 7p Worship Cmtee Mtg	30 7p Exec. BOT Mtg			

The General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association was held this year in Salt Lake City, also known, so the locals repeatedly assured me, as “Sin City”.

Despite its reputation as the capital of a slantingly Red state, and the headquarters and spiritual heart of the very conservative Mormon Church- both true- Salt Lake is still the largest and most diverse community in the State of Utah and remains a hotbed of radical moderation that the rest of the state has trouble distinguishing from out and out liberalism.

There were between 3,300 and 3,400 UUs present, almost two thirds of them delegates to GA. The principle legislative events were the election of the president of the UUA (Peter Morales) and a motion to rewrite the UU Principles and Purposes.

One issue that has been confronting the UUA is, indeed, its future. During the administration of outgoing UUA President Bill Sinkford, a number of initiatives were launched both to raise the profile of the Unitarian Universalist movement and to found new churches and grow the congregations we already have. This program has had many successes. Among them, there is now a UU church, Foothills UU , in my hometown of Maryville, Tennessee- about 30 years too late for me to go to it. Ah, well.

One striking event of General Assembly for me was talking to Bart Frost from the Church of the Younger Fellowship, a sort of online fellowship for our UUA youth. I asked him what our youth needed us to do for them. He immediately mentioned the pressing need for campus ministries to meet the needs of youths and young adults in college and the problems many young UUs experience in trying be accepted in

Report on General Assembly 2009 by Sarah-Wade Smith



**Report on General
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Smith**

leadership roles in congregations. This is especially true for college youth who are trying to become active in churches at college. Here in Pittsburgh, we have many institutions of higher education: University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, Duquesne University and more, just to name a few. First UU in Shadyside is the only UU church that has a campus ministry serving Oakland. What would it be like if we could manage to support at least one campus chaplain or at least help sponsor an on campus UU Fellowship for students.

I mentioned that there was an attempt to rewrite the UUA statement of Principles and purposes at this GA. The idea was to create a statement more inclusive of theistic language and less specific than the present seven principles. This attempt was strongly opposed by the UUA Humanist Association and others and was resoundingly voted down. Apparently, the majority of us agreed with the buttons: “The UU Principles aren’t broke, Don’t fix them”

Ten years ago, I walked into my first General Assembly in Nashville, TN and met Rev. Archene Turner, who was at that time in the middle of her seminary training and ecstatic that one of her favorite professors was marrying the daughter of Stephen King. It was Archene’s first GA too and we both had the same experience: the feeling of walking into a community where religious liberals like us were for perhaps the first time in our lives, the majority. I have never had a GA where I did not personally come away exhilarated, inspired and revived in my faith. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you as Allegheny UU Church’s delegate and a personal pleasure just to be at each GA. For those of you, who have never had the experience, I heartily recommend it.

*Read Sarah-Wade
Smith’s full
unabridged report
on Allegheny
UU’s Yahoo
Group page.*



Members of the Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network (UUPLAN) will gather at the First UU Church in Reading on Saturday 12 Sept. The all-day annual meeting will include:

- Agenda setting for the coming legislative year. Which issues will we rally our UU troops to work on in Harrisburg?
- Training on how to talk to your legislator, with role playing exercises. An experienced Unitarian lobbyist will be our trainer.
- Calendar setting for in-district visit days in October and teleconference meeting for UUPLAN liaisons.
- Tending the roots: developing UUPLAN infrastructure.

If you want to pursue progressive policies for all Pennsylvanians, join us! We are already working on GLBT and health care issues and will select an additional issue based on the passion expressed in Reading on Sept. 12th. Join us!

Contact Pete McQuillin if you would like to attend UUPLAN's annual meeting or if you have suggestions for additional issues we should lobby the PA legislature on.

Visit <www.uuplan.org> to learn more and to read the full agenda.

First UU Church in Reading's website <www.uuberks.org>.

Justice Advocates Gather for UUPLAN Annual Meeting



Grove of Gaia Fest 2009

Explore the great Celtic festival of Samhain, known popularly as Halloween: the time of the year when the veil between the worlds is said to be the thinnest. Attend Grove of Gaia Fest and work with psychics, readers and healers, as divination and energy-work are especially powerful at this time of year.

Grove of Gaia, a Pittsburgh Wiccan teaching and practice group will be holding its second annual Grove of Gaia Fest on Saturday 24 October from 11 AM to 6 PM at Allegheny UU Church. This Pagan fair features twenty top level psychics, crafters, artists, healers and energy workers, as well as food and other vendors. Five workshops will be offered during the day focusing on the healing and Pagan arts. At 6:30 PM the Fest will culminate with an open group ritual, led by Grove of Gaia.

Admission to experience Grove of Gaia Fest costs only \$3 per person. All workshops and the closing harvest ritual are free with the cost of admission. Vendors set their own reasonable prices.

Attendees bring in any one of the Grove of Gaia Fest ads to receive a dollar off only one vendor, which can be used toward crafts, healings, food, or readings.

The Grove of Gaia harvest ritual will be held across the street from the church at West Park at 6 PM.

For additional information, please visit: groveofgaia.moonfruit.com or contact Lady Annabelle at groveofgaia@gmail.com



Ohio-Meadville District News

Last week, I took a look at my fall calendar and that of the Ohio-Meadville District and realized that we are getting to be one very, very, very busy District.

To start things off, presidents, vice-presidents and clergy (and moderators/vice-moderators) are all gathering in Akron on Sept 12th for the OMD's annual Presidents' Day. This year, the OMD Leadership Team is offering a series of short workshops on social networking, policy governance, resources, inspiring volunteers, budgeting and more.

The Leadership Team is also busy planning for its Oct. 10 Leadership Conference in Toledo. The Rev. Hope Johnson is the exciting keynote speaker and the topic is an exploration of the very timely matter of Leadership in a Multicultural World. Please see the OMD website for more information about Rev. Johnson and the conference.

As I write this note I'm preparing to attend the fall gathering of the district executives and program consultants of our four-district regional group, "NRG Co-op." (Northeast Regional Group) We will be starting to plan our regional leadership school (UULTI) and will review the many free webinars and conferences we are scheduled to offer this year. We will look at the upcoming Association Sunday and regional growth and outreach support.

OMD and our NRG partner districts have scheduled a number of free webinars for this fall, all of which are available to our Ohio-Meadville congregations. Please see the OMD website for more about these webinars: <ohiomeadville.org>

It's going to be a very busy fall!

Blessings,
Rev. Joan Van Becelaere,
District Executive



New Welcome & Comment Cards

Please look for the new Welcome & Comment Cards in the Emerson Room of the church. These cards are a way for us to become more welcoming to new guests and to returning visitors. Allegheny UU Church members however, can use the back of the cards in order to communicate concerns, joys, and general comments to the various committees that help keep the church going.

Look for a box in the back of the Emerson Room to drop off your filled out card. Or feel free to place it in the donation plate when the greeters are collecting the offering.

Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church Comment Card

Name: _____ Date: _____

Welcome to Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church

Is this your first visit? _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Please _____

Would you like a name tag? _____

Would you like to receive our newsletter by email? _____

Are you interested in our Children's RE Program? _____

Are you interested in finding out more about anything in particular? _____

Would you like Rev. Dave to contact you? Yes No

Would it yes _____

Minister

Reverend David McFarland

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Membership Committee

Betty Schwarz & Lisa Carvajal

Worship Committee

Mark Tomlinson

Social Justice Committee

Liz Dell

Ministry Committee

Lynn Glorieux

Allegheny UU Web Site

www.alleghenyuu.org

Allegheny UU Yahoo Group

groups.yahoo.com/group/auuc/

Church Phone

412-322-4261

E-mail

[<auuchurch@yahoo.com>](mailto:auuchurch@yahoo.com)

AUUC Contacts

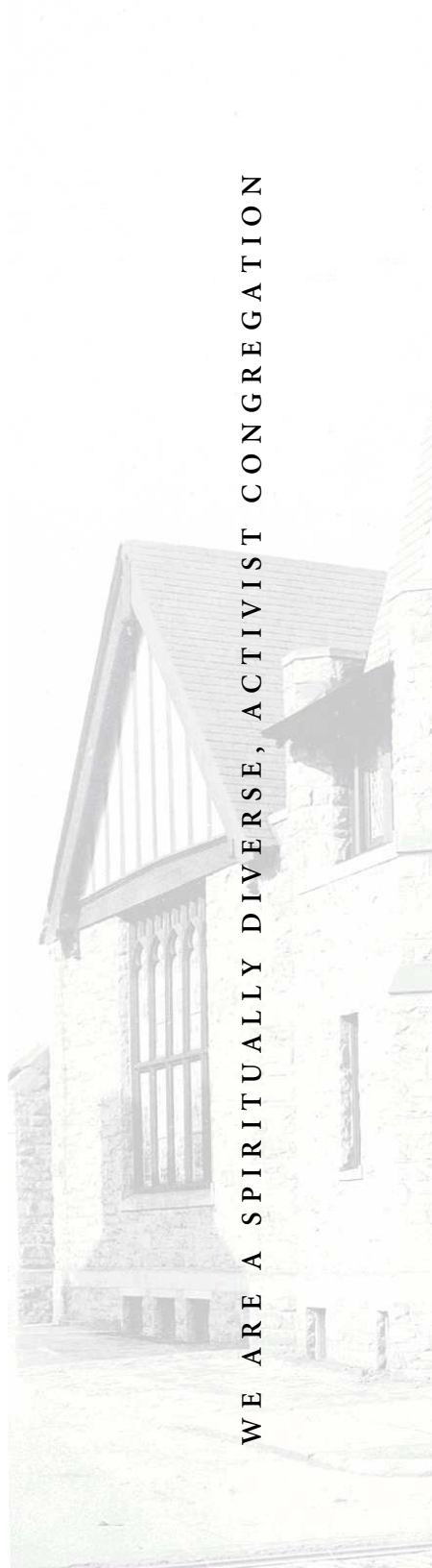
Our mission is to create a caring, nurturing liberal religious community centered on the celebration of life; to deepen awareness of the history of our Unitarian Universalist movement, its principles, and sources of wisdom; to engage in ethical discourse and action in order to maintain social justice as a central concern.

The *Allegheny Advocate* is published monthly (except August) by Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church.

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WE ARE A SPIRITUALLY DIVERSE, ACTIVIST CONGREGATION