

Program Guide
&
Religious Education Program
2010-2011



The Unitarian Universalist Church
of the South Hills
“Sunnyhill”

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Introduction

This program guide is an introduction to the many activities that the Unitarian Universalist Church of the South Hills (UUCSH) will offer 2010–2011. Through small-group interactions, such as those listed here, the congregation fosters intellectual and spiritual growth. All people of good will are welcome to participate in these activities. Each listing includes the name of the person who can provide additional information. Sunday-morning greeters, the church directory, or the church administrator can introduce you or put you in touch with the contact. On a regular basis, check *The Drummer* newsletter, The Beat e-mail update, and the church website at www.sunnyhill.org for updates.

Statement of Welcome

In accordance with Unitarian Universalist principles and our individual consciences, we celebrate human diversity in all its wonderful forms. This religious community is composed of young and old, male and female, gay and straight; we are of varied races, gender orientations, and ethnic backgrounds; we bring our differing abilities, life situations, religious beliefs, political affiliations, and opinions. We affirm and respect each other, rejoicing in each individual's unique gifts. We intentionally welcome all people of good will into this community.

-adopted by UUCSH in April 2005

Mission Statement of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the South Hills

Our mission is to foster intellectual and spiritual growth by upholding a free search for truth within a liberal religious setting. In a warm, intimate, and diverse environment, we support one another on our lifelong journeys and through the transitions in our lives. Committed to Unitarian Universalist principles, we seek to build a just and compassionate community both within and beyond Sunnyhill.

-adopted by UUCSH in April 2004

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Staff, Board of Trustees, Appointed Positions	4
Sundays at Sunnyhill	5
Becoming a UUCSH Member	5
Committee Descriptions and Contacts	6
Common-Interest Programs, Social Groups, LifeCraft Hour	11
Annual Events	13
Our Wider Unitarian Universalist Community	14
Volunteers	14
Religious Education (RE) Program & Exploration for Children & Youth	15

STAFF

Interim Minister

Rev. Dr. Jay Abernathy 412-561-6277 Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9:30 a.m.-noon
minister@sunnyhill.org Other times by appointment

Director of Religious Education

Cheryl Kelley 412-561-6277 Office Hours: Mon-Wed 9 a.m.-noon
dre@sunnyhill.org Summer hours vary—phone ahead

Music Director

Carol Karl 412-833-4624
ctrkarl@verizon.net

Congregational Administrator

Elizabeth Mortimer 412-561-6277 Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Thur 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
admin@sunnyhill.org Summer hours vary—phone ahead

BOARD OF TRUSTEES JUNE 2010-MAY 2011

Officers

President Margaret Hamstead
Vice President BK Kosmach
Treasurer Charlie Cook
Secretary Dorothy Burns

Members-at-Large

Harold Behar
Carol Jaworski
Will Page
Stephanie Romero
Martha Sweeney

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Accountant Charlie Cook (payables)
Assistant Treasurer Barb McCracken (receivables)
Wedding Coordinator Geneva Pullen

Do You Have a Congregational Announcement?

Please email inclusions for our monthly newsletter, *The Drummer*, to drummer@sunnyhill.org by the 15th of the month. Email announcements for Sunday's order of service and the weekly congregational email, *The Beat*, to admin@sunnyhill.org by 9 a.m. Wednesday. Go to our website, www.sunnyhill.org, for complete guidelines.

SUNDAYS AT SUNNYHILL

Services are on Sundays at 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. From Memorial Day through Labor Day, there is one service only, at 10:30 a.m. For the topic and leader of the service, please refer to our monthly newsletter *The Drummer*, phone the church office at 412-561-6277, or go to our website at www.sunnyhill.org.

Religious education is offered during both services for children in preschool through 8th grade, and the nursery is available for those children 3 years of age and younger. Our vibrant Youth Group, Grades 9-12, meets during the 11:30 service. For more details please refer to the Religious Education section of this booklet.

Sunnyhillers volunteer to fill over 500 slots during the year so that Sunday mornings run smoothly. On any given Sunday we have two volunteer Ushers, two Coffee Hosts, one Children's Snack Host and one Visitor Greeter. Multiply that times 2 services and we've got one army of dedicated people! If you would like to volunteer please contact the administrator.

Coffee & Conversation, the traditional time for UU fellowship, is held in the dining room immediately following each service. Please join us for fellowship, beverages and snacks so we can know one another better.

LifeCraft is the hour between Sunday services, 10:15-11:15. Many of our interest groups and discussion groups meet during this time. These small-group interactions foster intellectual and spiritual growth for individuals and the Sunnyhill community. Everyone is welcome to participate in these activities. The room schedule can be found on the foyer letterboard every Sunday.

BECOMING A UUCSH MEMBER

This booklet will show you the activities that make UUCSH function and the activities that make UUCSH both a fun and a spiritual place. Do our tasks and activities seem worthwhile or meaningful to you? Do you see the prospect of forming constructive relationships here that will help you grow? Can you see yourself, in community with us, healing the world in big or small ways?

Answer these questions by getting to know us. Sign up, show up, participate, and engage. Consider yourself invited! We want to get to know you. If you decide that we are your community, you may find yourself considering membership.

Some people become members because they know that, by fully investing themselves in the community, they will derive maximum fulfillment from it. Others become members because they want to help sustain the community, so others can benefit as they have. These reasons are sound, mature reasons to become a member. There are many others.

Membership is open to anyone who is 18 years old, who is in accord with the mission of UUCSH and comes with good will, and who has completed a membership-orientation class.

The orientation class is called Pathway to Membership. In 2010–2011, they will be held:

Sunday, Oct. 31, 2010, 10 a.m.–noon

Sunday, Jan. 23, 10 a.m.–noon

Sunday, May 1, 10 a.m.–noon

Watch *The Drummer* newsletter and The Beat e-mail update for opportunities to sign up. For details about the class, the membership process, and the congregation's expectations of members, see the pamphlet called Pathway to Membership, available in the literature rack in the entry of the church. Feel free to discuss membership matters with the chair of the Membership Committee, Toni Murray. Interim Minister Rev. Dr. Jay Abernathy is also available to discuss membership and Unitarian Universalism.

In addition to the membership chair and the minister, you have a congregation full of UUs to observe, question, laugh with, and get to know. This program guide is your key to doing that. Enjoy!

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS & CONTACTS

COMMUNICATIONS

To inform and encourage communications
that reflect our values and covenant.

Board Liaison—Harold Behar

Communications Committee

Harold Behar

4th Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Good communications are essential in an organization as large as UUCSH. Congregants need to understand how to find and dispense information, and leaders and staff need to know how best to communicate with members. This committee aids in this process by defining the different communication vehicles (such as the newsletter, website, email communications and advertising), providing guidelines, and ensuring this information reaches the congregation and prospective members in the best possible manner. This committee partners on projects with other committees where organizational goals intersect, an obvious partner being the Membership Committee.

COMMUNITY LIFE

To sustain a thriving, caring community.

Board Liaison—Carol Jaworski

Caring Committee

Diane Rusch

1st Tuesday, bi-monthly, 7:00 p.m.

The Caring Committee is the primary means through which individual members or friends receive tangible assurance that the Sunnyhill community is aware of and cares about their special occasions or circumstances. The committee acknowledges illnesses, special achievements, and other joys and sorrows by means of cards or other feedback. It serves as a communication link between the congregation and people who have special needs or challenges. The committee coordinates short-term help that may include visits, meal preparation, transportation, domestic chores, child care, and shopping. As needed, the committee makes referrals to the minister or social services providers. The Caring Committee also manages hospitality for memorial services.

Membership Committee

Toni Murray

3rd Tuesday 7:15 p.m.

Membership Committee manages the processes by which visitors are welcomed to UUCSH, are connected to the congregation, are educated about membership, and become members. Some of these processes include maintaining the publications rack, helping the church administrator maintain an accurate database, producing Pathway to Membership classes and Joining Ceremonies, and arranging events.

Memorial Committee

Patty Williams

This committee creates opportunities for remembrance of loved ones through memorials such as Sunnyhill's memorial garden and memorial book. The large granite boulder in the garden has space for bronze plaques to be mounted as a testimony of love and remembrance. We also compile biographies on past members whose loved ones want them included in our memorial book.

FACILITIES

To enhance our church environment.

Board Liaison—Charlie Cook

Facilities Committee

Charlie Cook

The Facilities Committee is concerned with the maintenance and improvements of our building. It functions on an as-needed basis for both small and large projects. The committee consists of volunteers who respond as individuals or in groups as necessary to meet the needs contained in a constantly updated list of facility requirements. The following committees fall under our umbrella:

~Art Committee

Nancy Bellamy, Gloria Snyder, Scott Smith

We were organized to work with the Board to make sure that artwork donations are appropriate to our needs, both aesthetically and with regard to our available (and very restricted) display space. This screening process for donations also was created to avoid unpleasantness by ensuring that all donations are treated fairly, all being screened in the same manner and through the same process.

~Garden & Grounds Committee

OPEN

Lawn mowing-Robert Williams

Our purpose is to organize volunteers to preserve the old, create new gardens, and enhance the grounds at Sunnyhill. This extensive task is done by having members adopt garden plots, holding work parties to clean the patios, weed and clean the parking lots, trim the many trees, yews and shrubs on the Sunnyhill grounds, and mow the expansive lawn.

~Technology Committee

Garth Schafer

This committee encompasses the computer network, sound system, copier/fax, and telephones along with other technologies. We work in concert with the Facilities Committee if modification within the building is required. We also work with the Administrator and outside contractors for the maintenance of the facility's computer systems when necessary.

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

To help each individual develop a personal religious identity.

Board Liaison—Martha Sweeney & Dorothy Burns

Adult Enrichment & Education Committee

Bruce Kent

This committee coordinates adult enrichment courses. Our goal is to meet the religious education needs of Sunnyhill adults who wish to enrich their spiritual and intellectual lives.

Courses to be offered this fall:

UU Theology and the Movies

Bruce Kent

Dates TBA

Seven principles. Seven films. Seven weeks. Seven discussions full of high-minded points and incredibly trivial facts. 'Nuff said. More than enough.

Western Religion

Herb Caponi

Dates TBA.

Religious Education Committee

Tanya Chothani

The RE Committee consists of volunteers interested in the religious education of children and youth attending Sunnyhill. Members of the committee assist the RE Director in various capacities, including planning and implementing the supplemental activities that our children and youth participate in each year (e.g., Harvest Festival, Spring Festival, Secret Friends, etc.). In addition, the committee works on securing volunteer teachers throughout the year, planning musical activities for the children, implementing various curricula, and engaging the children in social action.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

To develop and support programs and actions
which provide opportunities to live our UU values.
Board Liaison—Stephanie Romero

Sunnyhill Social Action Committee OPEN

This group allows you to put UU principles into action to promote the common good. Past projects have addressed community needs on the local, national and international levels. We hold a yearly Social Action planning meeting where individual projects are discussed and agreed upon. Those dedicated to the same project develop an action plan to bring to the congregation to garner support.

Following are committees that fall under our umbrella:

~Designated Offering Patty Williams

The designated offering is a special offering for social justice causes to benefit those outside of our Sunnyhill Community. Anyone can propose an offering and, if it fits our very general guidelines, a month is assigned for the offering and directions are provided to the sponsor of the offering to promote and collect it.

~Habitat For Humanity Beth Hedin

Habitat for Humanity, Washington County office, is a faith-based non-profit organization that builds affordable homes in partnership with families in need of decent housing. Sunnyhill organizes work groups a few times a year to support Habitat operations or build homes. Work occurs once a month, on Saturdays. Look for information and signups on the bulletin board in the dining room or in *The Beat* or *The Drummer*. If you'd like to learn more, or be on the email list, please email Beth at bbhedin@verizon.net

~Partner Church Ros Maholland

The purpose of the Partner Church group is to learn about Unitarianism and Unitarian Universalism all around the world, and to maintain a connection with our partner congregation in Kopec, Romania. American UU congregations currently have about 200 partner congregations, mostly in central and eastern Europe, India, and the Philippines.

~SHIM Helen Andrews

Sunnyhill has been a member of South Hills Interfaith Ministries (SHIM) for many years. SHIM provides a number of programs to help low-income residents, including a food pantry, counseling services, summer camp, tutoring programs, and holiday gift and mitten tree programs. In the holiday programs participants provide "sweat equity" to earn points to "buy" presents for family members. Sunnyhill participates by holding collections for the SHIM food pantry and for school-supply programs throughout the year.

~UUSC Pat Troell

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a social justice and human rights organization founded during World War II to help refugees from Nazi oppression. Currently, the UUSC works all over the world to defend women's and children's rights, support the struggles of oppressed communities, effect disaster relief, and more. The Service Committee is an affiliate of the UUA, but in order to stay independent, receives no funding from the UUA nor any government agency. The UUSC relies on its individual members for financial support.

STEWARDSHIP

To ensure financial support of the church.
Board Liaison—BK Kosmach

Finance Committee

Charlie Cook

This committee is responsible for considering and recommending appropriate changes or new procedures for managing the financial health of the church. This would include all financial aspects of the church, such as pledging, facility maintenance, grounds, all other sources of income, and long-range planning so that a complete vision of our finances is monitored and reported to the board and the congregation.

~Endowment

George Williams

The fund's purpose is to receive gifts and bequests from those who want to make a lasting contribution to the church. In turn, the endowment, through sound and prudent investment policies, cares for the long-term well-being of the church and the UU values that it upholds. The endowment has a directed fund for gifts with a specific purpose and a general fund for gifts that are not restricted. Because of the many ways of endowed giving and the resulting tax implications, members of the committee are available to answer any questions you may have.

Fund Raising Advisory Committee

Amy Kent

FRAC is committed to reviewing and providing guidance with regard to all special fundraising activities at Sunnyhill, in an effort to recruit leadership, ensure greater success, and provide assistance in various ways. After each major event, we will reach out to the event chairs to solicit their feedback. This committee is not involved in the canvass or in actually running fundraising programs. If you have comments on our existing programs or a feasible idea for a new one or please join us! Sunnyhill presently has its core group of popular and successful fundraising events:

- Service Auction Amy & Bruce Kent March 19, 2010
- Flower Sale and Pancake Breakfast Jeanette Patsakis & Wendy Weaver-Graham May 7, 2011
- Garage Sale Cori Vipperman June 4, 2011
- Sunnyhill To Go Gretchen Reiss & Donna Kaufman Nov 11-13, 2010
- Poinsettia Sale Lee Young Dec 2010
- Giant Eagle Gift Card program Ellen Vegh year-round
- Sunnyhill Store & More (choc & coffee) Margy Todd 2 Sun/month

Stewardship Committee

George Williams

This committee encompasses all aspects of giving to the church, including financial, talent, and time.

~Canvass Committee

Lee Young

Our primary responsibility is for the yearly pledge drive that allows members and friends to make a pledge of financial support to Sunnyhill for the following year. The Board of Trustees approves how and when to conduct the pledge drive. Church members are asked to participate in order to support and facilitate the canvass.

SUNDAY SERVICES

To nurture our quest of knowledge, truth and spiritual growth.
Board Liaison—Will Page

Sunday Service Committee

Julie Ann Sullivan

3rd Sunday 12:30 p.m., every other month beginning in October

3rd Thursday 7:00 p.m., every other month beginning in November

Always check UUCSH online calendar for confirmation

It is the role of the Sunday Program Committee to provide for quality Sunday services for any of the services not conducted by the minister. These services may be conducted by a member of the congregation, a visiting UU minister, or by an outside speaker. The committee coordinates these services with Sunnyhill's minister to provide for consistency and to promote diversity in Sunday programming.

BOARD-APPOINTED & CONGREGATION-ELECTED COMMITTEES

Ministerial Search Committee Chetan Chothani, Alan James, Louise Machinist, Gary VanGelder, Patty Williams, Sibyl McNulty, Jean Furlan

This committee shall search out and recommend to the membership a minister for the church. They work with the board in negotiating an initial job description and terms of employment with the candidate.

Nominating Committee 2010-2011—Malia Bennett, Tanya Chothani, George Yeckel, Peg Hart

This committee is elected by UUCSH members annually and is charged with providing a slate of candidates for the new Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee to the current Board of Trustees for elections at the annual meeting.

Personnel Committee Randy Bellamy, Denny McCracken, Harriet Maher

Consisting of 3 UUCSH members, this committee acts on human resource matters between UUCSH staff (excluding the minister) and Board of Trustees.



COMMON-INTEREST PROGRAMS, SOCIAL GROUPS & LIFECRAFT HOUR

UUCSH prides itself on the variety of small and large special-interest programs and social groups that meet within and outside these walls. Newcomers are encouraged to attend and participate in any of these groups.

The LifeCraft Hour takes place between services, 10:15-11:15, Labor Day through Memorial Day. During the summer it follows the service at 11:45. This hour makes available a wide range of small- and large-group programs for enrichment and to facilitate the search for meaning. We invite you to use this hour for exploration, challenge, and fellowship. Childcare is available.

“8 at 8” Dinners Dennis Sweeney *Fall Schedule: Saturdays Oct. 9, Nov. 6, Dec. 4, Jan. 8*
Spring Schedule: TBA

Sign up for the cooperative dinners generally held the 1st Saturdays of October, November, December and January in the fall, and the 1st Saturdays of February, March, April and May in the spring. 8 folks at 8 p.m. (or 9 folks at 7:30, etc.). As a participant, you will host one dinner (and provide a main course) and your guests will complete the menu. For the other three dinners, you need only show up at another’s home with a side dish.

Book Group Dean Hazelton *3rd Monday 7:30 p.m.*
Our reading varies widely, from best-sellers to classics, but mostly fiction. We pick our books by consensus.

Chalice Circles Dorothy Burns
Chalice Circles are small groups of 8 -10 individuals who meet bi-monthly with a facilitator to discuss topics relating to life experiences and spiritual themes. This small group approach to ministry provides participants with the opportunity to grow spiritually and to make deeper connections within the congregation.

Choir, Adult Carol Karl *2 Sundays/mo.*
The choir rehearses and performs about twice a month from September to May, usually rehearsing before 1st service or during LifeCraft. Small ensembles and soloists may also perform at other times, including June through August. Any member or friend of the church is welcome to join the choir.

Choir, Children Carol Karl
All children are invited to be a member of the choir. We have no definite schedule for rehearsals and performances, but there are special occasions during the year when a service would benefit from the sounds and sights of a children’s choir. In these cases, rehearsals take place about 8:30 a.m. one or two Sundays before the actual performance. In addition, the choir becomes very involved in the annual RE Christmas Pageant, which requires much more rehearsal.

Crewel Intentions Gloria Snyder *1st Sunday LifeCraft Hour*
Crewel Intentions is an intergenerational group who enjoy handwork of every and any sort. This includes most often knitting and crocheting. However, hand quilting; crewel work and other embroidery-type work; clothing embellishment, including beadwork; and even mending keep our hands busy! Sharing ideas and skills is a big part of the appeal and, of course, socializing.

Current Events Randy Bellamy *2nd & 4th Sunday LifeCraft Hour*
We are a group that welcomes all people wishing to exchange views on any and all topics arising in the news. Personal views may be stated without fear of censorship. A poll is taken at each meeting to see which topics are of greatest interest to the greatest number of participants.

Downtowners Lunch Group Lorraine Carabetta & Franziska Lang *4th Tuesday 11:45 a.m.*
Members and friends of Sunnyhill meet monthly at a downtown restaurant for lunch and conversation. An email is sent each month confirming the time and restaurant.

Emerson Group Lisa McCracken *3rd Sunday LifeCraft Hour*
This group discusses topics of philosophy, moral/ethical subjects, religious history and theology, and important modern thinkers. The group occasionally has speakers from various religious groups, and members can prepare for discussion by reading and/or viewing material electronically in advance.

First Friday Discussion Herb Caponi *1st Friday 7:30 p.m.*
Topics and leadership are rotated through the group, members are asked to BYOB and a snack to share. Watch *The Drummer* for upcoming dates and topics.

Meditation, Morning Diane Rusch *Tuesdays 9:30-10 a.m.*
Aside from the numerous health benefits, meditation can help us become more skilled at navigating life, thus less likely to be tossed about by the winds of fate. Join us Tuesday mornings as we learn to direct our sails, by becoming more calm, peaceful and aware of our inner resources.

Meditation, Sunday Barb McCracken *Each Sunday LifeCraft Hour*
All are welcome to join in this weekly session of meditation.

Pagan Spirituality Pamela Jones *3rd Sunday LifeCraft Hour*
During LifeCraft hour, members of Spiritways CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) will conduct a class exploring the spirituality of the many paths of the Pagan Way. Through reading, joyful and meaningful practice, and thoughtful discussion, Spiritways will assist the Sunnyhill community in deepening their understanding of Pagan religions.

Poetry Corner Dean Hazelton *2nd Sunday LifeCraft Hour*
If you like poetry, please come and share some of your favorite poems and poets with us. Some of our meetings are organized by subject and others are dedicated to the work of specific poets. We have only two ironclad rules: We read all poems aloud, and we read only good poetry. We especially welcome poetry written by members of the group.

Quaker Worship Group Diane Rusch *3rd Sunday 7:30 p.m.*
Some of these joint UU/Quaker meetings for worship remain completely silent. On occasion a member or members may feel led to speak out of this silence. The Quakers have faith in the "inner light," suggesting that there is a spark of the divine in everyone, which explains this shared sense of ministry.

Science & Spirituality Murray Zeldman *1st Sunday LifeCraft Hour*
Explore technical and scientific topics and discuss possible relationships between spirituality and evolving scientific knowledge. This group's members always propose and vote on the roster of topics for the year. Based on their vote the annual agenda is formed. Topics at the edge of science and where spirituality and science overlap are discussed. There are also topics that concern either science or spirituality that members propose, and this area alone becomes the basis of discussion. Many of the scientific or spiritual debates become deep and often produce different views about a scientific or spiritual concept. Often, people who come to the meetings feel that they have participated in an interesting session.

Spiritways/CUUPS

Pamela Jones

8 Earth Wheel Holidays, one Full Moon and one Dark Moon

This vibrant, loving, and supportive group is dedicated to the principles of Unitarian Universalism. We gather together with people in accordance with our values and draw on many ritual-based expressions of our Pagan spirituality. Spiritways is an open and welcoming group and is committed to the inclusion of all rituals and traditions of those paths. For inquiries about our group and/or to be included on our mailing list, please email the Leadership Team at spiritways@gmail.com.

Vegetarian Dinner Group

Lisa McCracken

2nd Friday 7:30 p.m.

Both adults and children are welcome at this monthly potluck dinner at Sunnyhill. Bring a vegetarian dish for 8 to 10 people to share. We also ask that each guest bring their own place-setting, to reduce paper trash and stay as green as possible.

Young Adults Group

Lisa McCracken

1st & 3rd Sunday 1 p.m.

Members and friends who are 18-35 are invited to participate in this group. In addition to discussing issues that are of interest to young adults, the group will also hold social activities. Most events will be child-friendly.

ANNUAL EVENTS**Italian Dinner**

Youth Group Advisors

February 26, 2011

Youth Group, with their annual fundraiser for social justice, transform Sunnyhill into an Italian bistro. You're sure to be delighted by good food, good conversation, and service.

Pancake Breakfast

OPEN

May 7, 2011

Come for a hearty (all-you-can-eat) meal of pancakes, home fries, link sausage, scrambled eggs and such. Designer pancakes made to order.

Service Auction

Amy & Bruce Kent

March 19, 2011, 5 p.m.

So, step right up, ladies and gentlemen, and children of all ages! Come and witness the amazing sights and sounds, the bizarre and unbelievable feats, the glitter and spectacle of the American circus as it comes to Sunnyhill. See the thrills, the beauty, the excitement and laughter that happen when the circus comes to town. And combine this with the electricity of the Annual Service Auction. It's a three-ring cornucopia of services, bargains and derring-do, as we bring you the Greatest Auction on Earth. Saturday, March 19, at 5 p.m. at the Sunnyhill Arena in lower Mt. Lebanon. In accordance with the 7th Principle, no animals were hurt or in any way misused during the writing of this blurb.

Sunnyhill To Go! Café & Gifts Gretchen Riess & Donna Kaufman *November 11-13, 2010*

A fundraiser promising fun for all involved. It's a pleasing mix of homemade soup, chili, bread, dips, and sweets 'n treats, and unique handcrafted art by Sunnyhill artists. Patrons can enjoy a light meal of a featured soup or chili, bread, and dessert. (All items available for take-out, too.) Attendees shop one-of-a-kind crafts and art. Time, talent, and donations needed.

Summer Institute "This is the house that UUs built."*July 10-16, 2011**Kenyon College, Gambier, OH*

Join over 500 adults and children in our annual Summer Institute. Activities include morning worship, evening vespers, a theme talk daily by a prominent speaker, morning and afternoon workshops, and evening social activities. Visit the summer institute website at www.omdsi.org.

OUR WIDER UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY

The Greater Pittsburgh Cluster

Our cluster is composed of 10 Unitarian Universalist congregations: 5 in Pittsburgh, 3 in Western Pennsylvania, and 2 in West Virginia. The mission of the cluster is to increase visibility and promote the growth of Unitarian Universalism while increasing fellowship among congregations. The following churches are in our cluster:

Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church
East Suburban Unitarian Universalist Church
First Unitarian Church
First Unitarian Universalist Church of Indiana
Ohio Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills
Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Smithton, PA
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Ligonier, PA
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Morgantown, WV

Ohio Meadville District (OMD)

www.umd.uua.org

Our church is one of 44 UU congregations in W. Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio that make up the Ohio-Meadville District. The **OMD District Assembly** will be held March 25-26 at the Ohio University Eastern Campus, St. Clairsville, OH . Please refer to page 13 for details on the OMD's **Summer Institute**.

Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)

www.uua.org

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) was formed in 1961 through the consolidation of the Universalist Church of America and the American Unitarian Association. Today the UUA is a faith community of more than 1000 congregations that support each other and bring to the world a vision of religious freedom, tolerance, and social justice.

Our congregations elect a Board of Trustees to govern the association in accordance with our commitment to the democratic process. Our association supports the ongoing vision, mission, and ministry of member congregations. Annually, we hold a meeting of the entire association, called **General Assembly**, where delegates representing their congregations vote on association issues. More than 4000 UUs will gather to vote and to attend more than 500 events (including workshops, worship services, lectures, etc). This year General Assembly will be held June 22-26, 2011, in Charlotte, NC.

VOLUNTEERS

Many Sunnyhillers have been listed as contacts for the committees and groups that make our church the stimulating and vibrant community that it is. These volunteers spend hours upon hours in order to lend their time and talents to the rest of us. Following are additional volunteers that don't quite "fit" into a committee or group—all the same, they also donate their time and energy in order to maintain our happy home:

Flower Arrangements
Kitchen Coordinators
Paper Recycling
Cardboard Recycling
Social Activities Coordinator
And Everything Else!

Vivian Aro
Donna Kaufman, Margaret Lindquist, Shirley Williams
Helen Andrews
Charlie Cook, Elizabeth Mortimer
Mary-Jo Hennessy
Robert Williams, Kimbal Nedved, Charlie Cook

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) & EXPLORATION FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

If you have any questions concerning the RE program, please feel free to discuss them with Cheryl Kelley, director of religious education, dre@sunnyhill.org. *For updated information on our programs* see the monthly newsletter, *The Drummer*, and watch for the weekly e-mail The Beat.

Sunnyhill Staff 412-561-6277
Cheryl Kelley, Director of RE
Rev. Jay Abernathy, Interim Minister
Elizabeth Baer Mortimer, Congregational Administrator
Carol Karl, Director of Music

Religious Education Special Activities

Choir	Carol Karl
Choir Coordinator	Angela Dipner
Children's Orchestra	Marina Neilsen Lauver
Holiday Pageant	Tim Zeddies
Secret Friends	Tanya Chothani
Spring Festival	Tanya Chothani
Harvest Festival	Angela Dipner

If your child has any special needs or if there are important issues in the child's life that might have an impact on her/him, please note this on the RE registration form in the appropriate box or notify the DRE in person. This information would be shared with teachers on a need-to-know basis. We have found that being aware and sensitive helps us to best serve the individual and the class. Talk with the DRE if you have questions.

Comments from the Director

At Sunnyhill we are proud of our Religious Education Program. Our eleven-week teaching sessions and team-teaching system distribute the responsibility for our children among many caring adults. Our high adult-to-child ratio ensures that each child receives the attention that s/he deserves. For this unique system to work effectively, it is necessary for many people to offer their services as volunteer teachers. We share responsibility for the spiritual, educational and social well-being of our children and youth.

Please volunteer today to teach by calling Cheryl Kelley at 412-561-6277 or 412-833-2713. We are always looking for dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers.

Our Religious Education Philosophy

Unitarian Universalism stresses the worth of each individual and the power of community. Our education program seeks to develop: a sense of community, critical reflection that leads to personal understanding and commitment, and joy in the process of living and learning.

With our youngest children we foster a sense of personal worth, an awareness of social context, and an appreciation of the wonders of life. As the children progress through the program, we introduce them to; the history of the human quest for religious meaning; the responsibilities of membership in the human community; and the process of creating a self-sustaining religious life through adulthood, using Unitarian Universalist Principles as a guide.

Our Program Objectives for Children & Youth

“...help our children grow up spiritually alive, free, and engaged in the world.” -William J. Doherty

- *To nurture a sense of wonder and reverence in the web of life*
- *To stimulate open inquiry, freedom of thought, and responsibility in our young people*
- *To provide models and practice for children and youth in making decisions on religious, moral, and social issues*
- *To emphasize the universal search for meaning, especially through the study of world religions and cultures*
- *To create a feeling of being a part of the Sunnyhill community and the “Living Tradition” that is Unitarian Universalism*
- *To have fun!*

Registration Information

In order to participate in the RE Program, each child and youth must have on file a current registration form. If you have not already done so, please fill out a registration form and return it to the director of religious education. Additional forms are available in the church lobby or the RE office. Children need to be registered every year.

Curricula

Courses deal with personal spirituality, beliefs, history and customs of Unitarian Universalists, our Judeo-Christian heritage, major world religions, peace, cooperation, and ecology.

Celebrations

As our Sunnyhill children and youth pass through their different life stages, we offer programs to celebrate their growth and accomplishments. To include your children in any of the following programs, please call the church office.

A ***Dedication*** or ***Naming Ceremony*** celebrates life by affirming the child’s worth as we welcome him/her into the extended family that is Sunnyhill. The act of dedicating or naming a child has been endowed with both religious and communal significance since ancient times.

Our ***Coming of Age Program*** recognizes the physical growth and spiritual development of our eighth and ninth graders. We celebrate their journey to become caring and responsible members of our community. There will be a five-session course for eighth graders this year, which will focus on what Unitarian Universalism means to each participant. Working with a mentor, visiting area UU churches, and performing community service also play a part in this program, which culminates in “Coming of Age Sunday,” on May 1st this year.

Bridging celebrates the transition of our **high school seniors to young adults**. This year they will be honored at the Youth Group Sunday Service on June 5th.

Classes for Children

9 a.m. Service

Preschool-K—UU Superheroes goals are to “introduce children to stories of Unitarian Universalists who have acted with courage and wisdom...to live their lives fully and make the world a better place for others; to learn some of the traditions of our Unitarian Universalist faith movement and our individual congregations; and to encourage the children to...grow both spiritually and ethically.”

First and Second Grades—UU Superheroes (please see above description).

Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grades—UUA Tapestry of Faith’s “Toolbox of Faith” invites participants to reflect on qualities of our Unitarian Universalist faith—such as integrity, courage, and love—as tools they can use in living their lives and building their own faith.

Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grades—*Neighboring Faiths* is a comparative religious program. “Exploring world religions has been a hallmark of Unitarian Universalist religious educations for over 100 years.” After reviewing the UU principles, the class will begin learning about other faith communities in the context of all seven principles. Teachers and students may pay visits to or host speakers from other faiths. It is expected that teachers of this curriculum will learn many new things along with their students! There will probably be “field trips” throughout the year.

11:30 a.m. Service

Preschool through Second Grade—*Around the Church, Around the World* helps the children learn more about our church community with our rituals, holidays, and celebrations. Students will explore the buildings and grounds, meet congregational leaders, and begin to understand the role of religion, and Sunnyside, in their lives.

Third through Eighth Grade—*UUA Tapestry of Faith’s “Toolbox of Faith”* invites participants to reflect on qualities of our Unitarian Universalist faith—such as integrity, courage, and love—as tools they can use in living their lives and building their own faith.

Youth Group: *Truth and Meaning: Questions about the Western Religious Heritage of Unitarian Universalism for High School Youth* by Jeff Liebmann. This curriculum for high school youth explores questions about Western religions that young people encounter in their daily lives. In particular, it compares and contrasts Unitarian Universalism with other Western religions. The sessions are grounded in the format of questions about religious practices and the theological concepts, life and afterlife, religious prejudice, and dogma and creeds. Rather than offer concrete answers, the questions invite youth to develop their own answers.

The Youth Group is a vibrant program for grades 9-12 that incorporates the components of education, community service, leadership skills, spiritual growth and development, and social activities. Youth activities during the year include participation in local, cluster, and district Unitarian Universalist Youth-Adult Committee (YAC) functions, overnights (“lock-in’s”), and the opportunity to participate in community service projects.

High School Youth Group Advisors:

Lisa McCracken, Catherine Palmer, John Kelley, Anne Brannen, and Uneva Pierce.

Nursery for Toddlers (9 & 11:30 a.m.)

Child care is provided for toddlers up to three years old at both services and during the LifeCraft hour. Parents should supply diapers, bottles, and favorite toys or blankets (if necessary). If a child is having difficulty, a parent will be asked to provide care. Infants go to church with their parents. There is a Sunday-morning “crying room” on the second floor from which the service can be heard. Tissues and toys are provided and adults can listen to the service.

Intergenerational worship services occur at holidays and special times during the years. See the calendar for details.

Service Projects

During the course of the year, children and youth participate in various service projects. To support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, children and adults are invited to participate in the “Guest At Your Table” program that is conducted during the winter holidays. Instilling in our children and youth a sense of responsibility for the larger community is one of our goals.

OWL: Our Whole Lives (OWL), a sexuality education program, is offered to children in grades 4-6 and grades 7-9 in separate classes. OWL will be offered again in 2012-2013.

Children's Choir: Singing in the choir is a great way to spend scheduled Sundays during the LifeCraft hour. If you are interested in learning more about the choir, contact Carol Karl.

Children's Orchestra: We are delighted to have an orchestra led by Marina Nielsen Lauver, which will meet for regular practice at Sunnyhill and perform at various services and functions throughout the year. Contact Marina for more information.

Summer Religious Education Program: The Summer RE Program is a Sunday class for children ages 3 to 12 years. Younger children are cared for in the nursery and older children are invited to become teacher's assistants and help with the class.

You can support the Religious Education Program by:

Committing to the regular and punctual attendance of your child. Frequent attendance, at least 3 times per month, helps a child feel a part of the group and, according to children who have grown up UU, is an important part of remaining active in our faith. Attendance also underscores the importance of Unitarian Universalist values to the family.

Participating with your child in the intergenerational events at church. Enjoying church together builds a sense of community for adults as well as children.

Teaching a class or leading a special session every year. Share your talents and, along with the children, learn more about many things!

Volunteering to teach or help out at one of our special events. This is a great opportunity for new families hoping to meet other parents and families, and to lend a hand. Please volunteer today by calling Cheryl Kelley at 412-561-6277 or e-mail dre@sunnyhill.org.

Contributing to the church financially. There is no fee required for RE enrollment. The costs are borne each year by the generosity of everyone's financial support. Please make a pledge in our annual church canvass when you are called.

Help by ***preparing the RE snack*** for all children about twice each year.

We are proud of our religious education at Sunnyhill and strive to change and grow in depth and breadth. Please contact the DRE with any questions or comments.

“May we carry our lamp into dark places.”

**The torch still burns, and because it does
There remains for all of us a chance
To light up the tomorrows and brighten the future...
This is the challenge that makes life worthwhile.**

-Robert Kennedy

Our Unitarian Universalist Principles for Children

Our congregations promise to affirm and promote:

- That every person is important and valuable
- That all people should be treated fairly
- That our churches are places where we accept one another and learn together
- That each person should be free to search for what is right and true
- That all people should have the right to speak out and vote on the things that matter to them
- That we should help build a peaceful, fair and free world
- That we need to take care of the earth, the home that we share with all living things

The Sources of our Faith for Children

Unitarian Universalists look for meaning in many places:

- Awesome experiences of mystery, beauty and belonging that all people feel
- Words and actions of wise and brave people that make us want to change things that are unjust or cruel, and to offer kindness instead
- Ideas from a lot of different religions that help us figure out what is good and true and fair
- Jewish and Christian teaching that encourages us to treat others the way we would like to be treated
- Ideas of people who believe in the goodness and power of human beings, who remind us to use science, common sense, and our own brains to think things out
- Teaching of people who celebrate nature and remind us to live in harmony with the natural seasons of life
(adapted by Betsy Hill Williams)

RE Calendar 2010-2011

September 5	Intergenerational: “In-gathering”
September 12	RE session 1 begins
October 31	Harvest Festival during LifeCraft
November 21	Intergenerational—Thanksgiving
December 5	RE session 2 begins
December 19	Holiday Pageant 9:00 service only
December 26	no RE
February 13	RE Sunday
February 26	Italian Dinner
March 6	session 3 begins
March 27 - April 10	Secret Friends
April 16	SpringFest
April 24	Easter Egg Hunt
May 1	COA service
May 22	RE ends
June 5	Youth Sunday

Our Unitarian Universalist Principles & Traditions

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven principles:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Unitarian Universalism (UU) draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.
- Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

These principles and sources of faith are the backbone of our religious community.