



What*s Happening

MAIN LINE UNITARIAN CHURCH

September 2009

There will be one Sunday service, at 10 a.m., on September 6. Two services, at 9 and 11 a.m., resume on September 13.



WELCOME HOME!

Welcome to a new program year at Main Line Unitarian Church. We hope you've had a restful summer and look forward to seeing you! We're eager to have you meet your new Associate Minister, Rev. Craig Roshaven, and your new Interim Director of Religious Education, Sandra Greenfield. Turn the page for a brief self-introduction from each.

Although the summer may appear to be a "slow" time at church, there has been a great deal of preparation taking place for the new year. Your Board of Trustees, Task Forces, Small Groups, committees, and church staff have all been working to ensure that the coming year offers you myriad opportunities for spiritual growth, learning, fellowship, community involvement, and fun. Welcome home!

WHO WE ARE

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

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



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RUMINATIONS



Rev. Dr. Justin Osterman
Senior Minister

It's been a busy summer at MLUC and I have exciting news to share with you. During our Ingathering Service on Sunday, September 13, we will welcome our new Associate Minister, Rev. Craig Roshaven, and our Interim Director of Religious Education, Ms. Sandra Greenfield, into the MLUC community. We are truly fortunate to have two such talented, experienced, and dedicated religious professionals joining our church's staff.

As you will read in his column, Rev. Craig comes to us after most recently completing an 18-year ministry at First Jefferson UU Church in Fort Worth, Texas. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a seasoned minister joining us. On behalf of our entire community, I want to thank Teresa Zink, Terry Dixon, Susan Hollister, Fred Kauffman, Barbara Welsh, and Rich Fritzson for their dedicated service and wise counsel in the selection process that brought Rev. Craig to MLUC.

We are equally fortunate to have Sandra taking the helm of our Church School. Our children's religious education is part of MLUC's core mission, and this crucial ministry will be in extremely capable hands. As Sandra notes in her column, MLUC Church School Committee leaders Gail Burgess and Rob Williams were indispensable in helping bring Sandra to MLUC, and I cannot praise or thank them enough for their extraordinary service to our church.

I am looking forward to the new church year, looking forward to working closely with Rev. Craig and Sandra in the years to come, and looking forward to seeing you all at the service on September 13.

Yours in faith,
Rev. Justin Osterman

A BRIEF HELLO . . .



Rev. Craig Roshaven
Associate Minister

Hi! My name is Craig C. Roshaven. I'm going to be serving as your Interim Associate Minister for the next two years and just wanted to say a quick hello and tell you a little about myself.

I am a 1981 graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry and was ordained to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry in 1982. I have been serving as the minister of First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, since 1991 and previously served churches in the Cleveland area.

Barbara and I have been married for twenty-five years. We are both natives of Cleveland, Ohio, and have four children and five grandchildren between us.

I am very pleased and proud to have the opportunity to serve you over the next two years and look forward to getting to know you. I have a lot of experience in pastoral care, small group ministry, and life-span religious education. I also love to tell stories and have a keen interest in the history of ideas. I worked my way through college and graduate school as a medical paraprofessional and also worked for several years as a computer programmer and system analyst.

Aside from church activities, I am an avid bicyclist and love to cook and read.

I expect to arrive in late August and, with your help, will soon become better acquainted with you and the surrounding community.

. . . AND ANOTHER!



Sandra Greenfield
Interim Director of Religious Education

Hello, everyone. My name is Sandra Greenfield, and I am your Interim Director of Religious Education. For the next two years we will work together to illuminate MLUC's unique RE program identity, identify new ways of effecting spiritual, emotional and sociological development and prepare the way for new professional RE leadership.

In a few weeks, there will be more personal details on the MLUC Web page. I have returned to the area, moving from New Hampshire where I served several UU congregations over the last eleven years. I last served the Portsmouth congregation as their Director of Lifespan Faith Development. I have served our denomination as a consultant to RE programs in Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire. As part of the UUA's credentialing program I have taught UU History and RE Administration. My favorite RE leadership experience was managing four week-long RE conferences for 260 people on Star Island, seven miles off the coast of New Hampshire.

I have two young adult children that I not only love but admire. Alise is a junior at the University of New Hampshire studying nursing. Rachel studies International Relations at Boston University and is a sophomore.

I am also a student! I am in the Human Sexuality Education graduate program at Widener University, having been inspired by our denomination's Our Whole Lives (OWL) program and its ministry of justice and wholeness.

I look forward to meeting you all. If Rev. Osterman, Gail Burgess, and Rob Williams are an indication, I am among a people of grace, dedication and good humor.

SUNDAY SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 6: LISTENING CAREFULLY AND HEARING DEEPLY (10 A.M. ONLY)

Rev. Susan E. Vollmer

Music: The Gingles Duo

In this time of economic hardship, it is so easy to navel gaze, to see the impact upon ourselves, and to spend our time tightening our belts and worrying. But can we hear outside of our own heads and hearts, beyond our front doors? Rev. Susan Vollmer will challenge us to consider what our UU principles call us to do.

SEPTEMBER 13: ALL TOGETHER (RESUMING A SCHEDULE OF TWO SERVICES, AT 9 AND 11 A.M.)

Rev. Dr. Justin Osterman

Music: Dr. Vincent Craig, piano and organ

This morning we will officially launch our new church year with intergenerational services, during which we will celebrate through word and song our community and shared faith. We will also welcome our new Associate Minister and Interim Director of Religious education into the MLUC community.

SEPTEMBER 20: IN FORMATION

Rev. Dr. Justin Osterman

Music: Dan Karney, tenor, and Jan Karney, soprano

This morning marks the start of our regular Sunday morning church school for children. Here at MLUC, we believe that religious education is a lifelong effort and that it involves "formation" as much as it does "information." Where are you in your formation?

SEPTEMBER 27: THE OLD, THE NEW, AND THE TRUE

Rev. Dr. Justin Osterman

Music: MLUC Choir

This season of the Jewish High Holy Days always invites reflection on the ideas of repentance, forgiveness, and renewal. This morning we'll reflect on the things that we must "hold onto" and those we must "let go of," and how to know which is which.

THE GREETER'S QUIZ

(or how to find out if greeting at church is right for you)

1. You like Main Line Unitarian Church and believe others will, too.
2. You are friendly, or at least can be when necessary.
3. You like to get to places on time.

If you agree with these three statements, being a greeter might be right for you. We have a few slots open for a regular greeter, which means that you are willing to greet at one of the services on a once-a-month basis. The job requires that you get to church 15 minutes early to welcome members, friends, and visitors to our church. Perks include plentiful parking, no meetings to attend, and the general good feeling that comes from being friendly.

If you are able to greet this church year, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Nancy Pasquier. If you cannot commit to a regular monthly schedule but would be interested in being listed as a substitute, please let us know. Thanks.

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Rev. Dr. Justin Osterman

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 x12; justin@mluc.org

Rev. Craig Roshaven

Associate Minister
 x13; craig@mluc.org

Sandra Greenfield

Interim Director of Religious Education
 x11; sandra@mluc.org

Dr. Vincent Craig

Music Director
 x22; vincent@mluc.org
 (Thursday, Friday, and Sunday)

Marybeth McMurray

Parish Nurse
 x16; marybeth@mluc.org
 (Tuesday and Thursday)

David Arnold

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 x15; david@mluc.org
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Doreen Jackson

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Carol Beaton

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Communications

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Bryon Hargrove

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 x20; bryon@mluc.org
 (Wednesday-Sunday)

Will Quay

Assistant Custodian

SALON DES REFUSES

Art Show And Beaux Arts Ball

September 12th 6:00-9:00 p.m.



The Visual Arts Committee is hosting a grand party . . . a “Beaux Arts Ball” to which you are invited. Put on an outlandish mask and creative costume, and bring an appetizer to share. Prizes for creativity should tempt you. There will be live music, a cash bar, and lots of art and food to be enjoyed. Surprise performers may appear.

The large array of paintings and sculpture by members of the Philadelphia Tri States Artists Equity, who were refused from a recent juried exhibit at the Berman Museum, will be shown in both the Fire-side and the McGinness Rooms. The show will last through Oct. 4.

Bring your friends and enjoy a great party!

MLUC'S ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

BASICS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FINANCIAL LIFE

The past year of financial turmoil has many of us rethinking how we are handling our own monetary matters. To assist members and friends in this process, the Endowment Committee is underwriting two financial seminars. These seminars are free. Nothing will be sold and there are no hidden agendas. This is solely for the benefit of the attendees. The presenter is Katherine Holden, Certified Financial Planner.



Seminar I: Thursday, September 17, 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Begin to Take Control of Your Financial Life and Using Credit Wisely (Part I)

Seminar II: Tuesday, September 22, 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Using Credit Wisely (Part II) and Achieve Long-Term Independence — Saving and Protection

While the seminars are designed to be taken together, you may attend just one. Childcare will be available upon request. Please RSVP by September 13 to Don Walker.

Members of the Endowment Committee will be available to answer questions and take reservations, Sunday, September 13, following each service.

COMING IN OCTOBER . . .

MARK MORRISON-REED WORKSHOPS



Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed, author of *Black Pioneers in a White Denomination* and a pioneering African American UU minister, will spend the first weekend of October at MLUC.

On Friday, October 2, beginning at 7:30 p.m., Mark will read from and sign copies of his new book, *In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby*.

On Saturday, October 3, at 10 a.m., Mark will focus on a pivotal event in the history of the Unitarian Universalist Association, when between 1967 and 1970 the newly formed UUA was shaken by a controversy over black empowerment with the largely white denomination. This controversy traumatized the movement and has lasting effects to this day.

Rev. Morrison-Reed will complete his MLUC weekend residency on Sunday, October 4, when he'll join Rev. Dr. Justin Osterman and preach a sermon titled, “Dragged Kicking and Screaming Into Heaven.”

Newsletter deadline: September 10 at noon.
Please submit items for the October issue to
news@mluc.org.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dave VanOcker, President

During our spring annual giving campaign, your pledge was not the only important gift you gave MLUC! You also gave the gift of feedback, in the form of the “snapshot surveys” that accompanied those pledges, and conversations held with fellow members who visited you in your homes. Board members have spent many hours analyzing and discussing the information provided by more than 250 survey and 180 interview respondents. That information has been enormously useful in refining and monitoring what policy governance calls *Ends*: the beneficial outcomes we most hope MLUC will achieve.

The results have confirmed that the four basic *Ends* we identified — spiritual growth, community, living our values in the outside world, and strengthening Unitarian Universalism — are indeed deemed highly important by the Congregation. They have given us critical insight into how you prioritize these ends (hint: in a different order from that shown above), the concrete ways you view these concepts, where MLUC is doing a good job of achieving such outcomes, and where we can do better. Your feedback also provides significant clues as to how priorities and perceptions of performance differ across age groups.

As the new church year gets fully underway, your Board will be sharing more on the survey summaries and plans to provide opportunities for everyone to reflect and comment on these findings. Please take time to continue the conversation — Your feedback is crucial and deeply appreciated!

SING OUT!

Weekly adult Choir rehearsals will begin on Thursday, September 10, at 7:45 p.m. (There will not be a rehearsal on September 17.) The Choir will sing at the September 27 worship services



Dr. Vincent Craig
Music Director

I am always looking to broaden the scope of our music ministry. One of the ways to make this happen is by using untapped talent in our congregation. Many of you, especially newer members, may have musical talents or interests that I am not aware of, and might enhance our pool of volunteers beyond the traditional western classical model. I am especially interested in seeking out those interested in singing. My goal this year is to present different kinds of choral music than we have had in the past, and build our choir program, recognizing that different styles appeal to different musical tastes.

In June we had a successful service featuring an Intergenerational Choir, which included people from ages six to sixty and, in some cases, entire families. We rehearsed between Sunday services for two weeks; the group sang at a family service when there were no church school classes. This may appeal to younger adults who have made a commitment to teach church school, or have child care issues that prevent them from attending a weeknight rehearsal.

We have to plan for our future, and having a successful music ministry in the future means getting involved today. Please contact and tell me how you would like to participate in our music program.

FROM OUR PARISH NURSE

NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP NEWS

Welcome back from summer! I want to update you regarding the Neighborhood Groups, which were formed to offer lay care at the grass-roots and neighborhood levels. They continue to be a “work in progress” as we have added a new group and merged some of the other smaller groups. Almost all have co-coordinators and most have had social kick-off events. I have had the pleasure of attending most of the gatherings and have come away with such a feeling of gratitude and respect for the MLUC congregation. Neighbors have pooled resources to help each other out, and foster connections and the sense of a caring community. It has brought together MLUC members who didn’t even know they lived in the same area. I want to thank all of you for helping make Neighborhood Caring Groups happen.



Marybeth McMurray

BLOOD DRIVE

As you know, the blood supply takes a critical dip over the summer when donations generally decrease. However, the need for blood doesn’t take a vacation in the summer. Please consider donating blood at the American Red Cross blood drive on Tuesday, September 8, from 1:00 through 7:00 p.m. in MLUC’s McGinness Room. You can register in either of two ways: online by entering code #2123 at www.pleasegiveblood.org or by calling the Red Cross at 215-451-4353. Additionally, the Red Cross is interested in having someone to assist in recruiting blood donors from the surrounding community. If you can help, please contact Kathleen Gillan at the Red Cross.

ANNIVERSARY BOARD

A big THANK YOU for those who helped inform, entertain, and enlighten us about our history during our 50th Anniversary celebration. It took time, energy, research, and persistence to put together the Atrium exhibits. The volunteers included Meg Bohem, Barbara Bugliani, Cathy Conahan, Joy Friedman, Beth Johnson, Mary Kane, Ann Keech, Linda Mason, the Church School and Social Action Committees, Nancy Wendell, and Lorle Wolfson. A job well done!

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE



Priscilla Osgood, Liaison

In Iraqi Kurdistan, UUSC worked with long-time partner Asuda for Combating Violence Against Women (asuda.org) on a project to train women on how to vote and run for public office. After regional elections on July 25, Kurdistan's newly elected parliament boasts thirty percent female membership. This is a higher percentage than in any country in the Middle East, North America, and most of Europe — and nearly twice the percentage of women in the United States Congress (17%). For more detail, go to www.uusc.org.

UUPLAN

Casey Aspin

Members of the Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network (UUPLAN) will gather at First Unitarian Universalist Church in Reading on September 12. The all-day 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
- Calendar setting for in-district visit days and teleconference meetings 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 September 12. Contact Casey Aspin if you would like to attend UUPLAN's annual meeting, or visit www.uuplan.org to learn more.

SAVE THE DATE:

Announcing the 5th Annual
Joseph Priestley District Anti-Racism Conference

MULTICULTURAL FAMILIES

Saturday, October 17, 8:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis, Maryland

ECO TASK FORCE/GREEN SANCTUARY

Don & Mary Kane, Co-chairs
Angela Walker, Co-chair



The first ECO meeting of the new church year will be on Sunday, September 13, at 12:30 p.m. Developing a "Sustainability Policy" for MLUC is exciting and time-consuming. Nancy Cleveland will give us a summary of her efforts. We'll also meet with Rich Fritzson, Social Action Chair, to brainstorm the direction we want our environmental efforts to go.

Please join us.

Following our Seventh Principle: The areas of discussion for creating a "Sustainability Policy" address ways we can grow our "Green Sanctuary": **Within the church** by buying recycled paper products, non-toxic paints and cleaning products, and, when renovating, using products made from recycled and sustainably manufactured materials. **Outdoors** by using non-toxic gardening products, ice removal, and continuing an appreciation for having a garden. **Energy use** by continuing to purchase 100% wind power, energy-saving light bulbs and appliances, and developing energy conservation habits. **Developing "green" habits** in recycling, by buying sustainable party products, and by teaching a love for our interdependent web of life

FOLK SING

The Folk Singing group will meet at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 27, at the home of Elsie and George Rayl. Everyone who enjoys singing is welcome.

Joseph Priestley District Women and Religion Annual Retreat

DISCOVER YOUR VOICE OCTOBER 16 - 19

Reclaim the power of your body and voice in the company of
UU women

We will use meditation, breathing, singing, drumming, and
other activities as pathways to our inner creativity
and energy.

Held at the Bishop Claggett Center, near Frederick, Maryland

Information and registration is available at www.jpdw.org,
or contact Nuala Carpenter.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY (SGM)

Ingrid Deckman, Chair

Small Group Ministry is a network of small groups that provide an opportunity to develop deeper connections through sharing of thoughts, ideas, and life experiences. Beyond debate and discussion, SGM strives for genuine dialogue and intimacy and provides opportunities to discuss the "big questions" of life in a small, safe environment.

Through session plans that include focused readings and questions presented at the beginning of each meeting, participants are encouraged to share their lives. Groups of 8-12 members meet every two weeks with a facilitator who makes certain that a safe environment for sharing is created. This includes respectful listening, speaking from one's experience, and maintaining confidentiality within the group.

MLUC has 14 groups with 180 participants who commit to being part of the same group from September to June and agree to attend on a regular basis. Some groups meet at church while others meet in homes. Whatever the format, Small Group Ministry helps to meet the need for spiritual connection and deepening of relationships.

New participants are welcome. Registration forms will be available at Sunday services and on-line in September. A SGM session will be open to the congregation after each service on Sept 27 and any questions will be answered. For more information, contact Ingrid Deckman.

LIGHT THE CHALICE

Do you want to contribute meaningfully to a Sunday morning service? Light the chalice! It takes only a few moments at the beginning of the service to light the chalice and at the end to extinguish it. One of the Worship Committee members will be on hand to guide you and answer any questions. Interested? Contact Gary Merken.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

the newsletter of Main Line Unitarian Church,
is published 11 times a year (combined July-August issue).

Submissions of 225 words or less are due on September 10
for the October issue.

Submit material to news@mluc.org.

PARTNER CHURCH

Jonathan Bass

The Partner Church Committee will be having its annual fundraiser in early October. We raise these funds to support our partner church in Várfalva, Romania. The funds support the ministry, religious education, and building maintenance at this historic church, the first in the world to use the word Unitarian in its name.

Romania is one of the countries hardest hit by the current economic downturn. We believe the general economic there is making life more difficult for our friends in Várfalva.

On Sunday, September 27, our partner church will be celebrating the Transylvanian Unitarian Thanksgiving holiday, one of the major holidays on the religious calendar. Our friends have been very thankful for our past support. Let's help keep the chalice burning brightly in Várfalva!

SISTERS IN SCRIPTURE – THE SEQUEL

Soul Sisters starts another season of programs for MLUC women at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, September 13, with a return visit by Rev. Dr. Justin Osterman. His topic, "Sisters in Scripture, Part II," will continue his examination of the role – and absence – of women in Western religious texts. He will explore stories of feminine characters in the Christian scripture (New Testament), with opportunity for discussion and reflection. The evening will conclude with time for refreshments and socializing. Soul Sisters is open to women of all ages, including guests, interested in broadening female energies and deepening connections with each other. Childcare is available upon request. For more information, contact Eileen Andrews.

ATTENTION: MUSICIANS OF ALL AGES

Marjorie Gingles is compiling a listing of those who have provided music throughout MLUC's 50+ year history. If you've sung, rung (a handbell), or played an instrument in a Sunday service or another MLUC program, please contact her.

CHANGE THE WORLD . . .

NOT YOUR ADDRESS

Did you know you can complete your Master of Divinity or Master of Arts in Religion without relocating? Explore Meadville Lombard Theological School's TouchPoint distance learning program at 773-256-3000, ext. 237, or admissions2@meadville.edu.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

RETIRED MEN'S LUNCHEON

The group will meet on Wednesday, September 9, at 11:30 a.m. with lunch at noon. Open to all men, retired or not; watch Notes of the Week for details on this month's speaker.

CHURCH SCHOOL

A new year of religious education for children and youth starts on September 20; our Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) host a soup lunch following the 11 a.m. service.

SOUL SISTERS

Rev. Dr. Justin Osterman presents "Sisters in Scripture, Part II" at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, September 13. (See page 7.)

BEAUX ARTS BALL

Introducing September's art exhibit in the Fireside and McGinness Rooms, "Salon Des Refuses." (See page 4.)

PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLANNING

The MLUC Endowment Committee presents two free seminars, on September 17 and 22. (See page 4.)

CASUAL CONVERSATION AND...

...Whatever! This informal lunchtime get-together resumes every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m., beginning on September 22. Bring your needlework, mending, or "whatever" to work on while we chat, or just come to chat.

COMING IN OCTOBER...

Friday, October 2 – Sunday, October 4: Workshops and more with UU minister and author Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed. (See page 4.)

Thursday evenings, beginning October 15: The newly revised UU Women and Religion course, *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven*, runs for five weeks.

October 16 – 18: The Joseph Priestley District Women and Religion Annual Retreat at the Bishop Claggett Center near Frederick, Maryland. (See page 6.)

ON THE WEB

The complete MLUC calendar of events is online at mluc.org. Members can simply click to request a room for their meeting or event. While you're there, you can listen to past sermons and learn more about MLUC.

Newsletter deadline: September 10 at noon. Please submit items for the October issue to news@mluc.org.



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