



What's Happening

MAIN LINE UNITARIAN

OCTOBER 2017

BRING-A-FRIEND SUNDAY: OCTOBER 22

Please join us at the 10:00 a.m. service on October 22 for Bring-A-Friend Sunday. Our renovations will be close to completion, the Religious Education program will be in place, and the church will be ready and eager to welcome new guests. Whether you're a member or a visitor yourself, please invite a friend or two to join you. For those who are curious about Unitarian Universalism, the service will be focused on the UU guiding principles, offering an overview of the faith. And for those familiar with Unitarian Universalism but who have not yet experienced Main Line Unitarian Church, it will be an ideal service to become acquainted with the mission and character of this religious community.

Please look for the invitation in your email. If you are interested in helping the Membership Committee make it a successful day by volunteering to be a Greeter, Usher or Green Striper, please contact Jessica Hirsch Lynn (jessica@mluc.org).



*Together,
We Transform Lives
through
Love, Service, and Our
Welcoming Faith.*

WHO WE ARE

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

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

CHESTER CHILDREN'S CHORUS CONCERT

MLUC was fortunate to host the fifty members of the Chester Children's Chorus last October, and we are most fortunate to host them again on Saturday, October 28 at 7:00 p.m. Directed by founder, John Alston, the Chorus is slated to perform a program of classical music, including selections from Mozart's Requiem, gospel numbers, and jazz, arranged especially for the students by Dr. Alston. Boys and girls from the Chester Upland School District, 8 to 18 years old, are auditioned in the spring and participate in a year-round music education and academic enrichment program. All concerts are free and family-friendly. A free-will offering will be taken to support Chorus programs. This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce friends to MLUC. More information is available at chesterchildrenschorus.org, or by phone at 610-328-8180. Follow them on Facebook to learn about all upcoming events.



TIME FOR ANOTHER CONGREGATIONAL CHECK-IN!

Later this month, the Committee on Ministry Health (CoMH) will once again be checking in with the congregation to assess how well we are living our mission and achieving our ends. Last year the committee's focus was on our creation of a supportive community. This year we'll be looking at the degree to which MLUC provides spiritual enrichment and growth, with adults being the subject this fall, and children and youth next spring. Please keep a look-out for an invitation in your email to complete a short online survey on this topic. (Paper surveys will be available to those who need them.) Last year we had a great response rate; let's equal or better it this year! Once released, the time to complete the survey will be limited, so please make it a priority and help us—together—create the information that will support the best possible embodiment of our aspirations as a church community.

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MINISTERIAL MUSINGS: LIFE LESSONS

I love being a UU minister because I get to spend a lot of time with UUs, who tend to be perpetual students. In some religions, there is a sense that one's spiritual journey has a graduation date. For example, in the evangelical religion of my childhood, the emphasis was on "getting saved," which meant that you had your ticket to heaven and there wasn't much else left to be done regarding your spiritual growth. The rest of life is basically recess, a waiting for school to end. There's something very appealing about that. But UUs tend to see life as a never-ending university. Life is always presenting us with lessons, and if you don't learn your lesson today, life will give you another test tomorrow. If you fear intimacy, life keeps putting people in your path who invite you to trust them. Or if you cannot manage your temper, people keep confronting you until you realize that you are driving them crazy. When we finally learn our lesson, we take another class, and life presents us with a new lesson. For those with eyes to see and ears to hear, the learning never ends, which is why we UUs see religious education as a lifelong adventure. In some religions, the major text for learning is a sacred scripture, an official dogma, or a revered tradition. Learning is basically memorizing the truth that has already been discovered once-upon-a-time. But UUism sees truth as being more subjective and contextual. Our major text is our life – our own personal and shared experiences, past and present. Based on these, we derive certain truths. We draw conclusions as to what makes life meaningful and worthwhile. As we accumulate more facts from our experiences, we typically modify our conclusions. Some people maintain a closed mind to ensure that what was once regarded as THE truth remains forever true, while others would agree with Emerson, that "a foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen, philosophers, and divines. With consistency, a great soul has simply nothing to do." A person with an open mind does not fear changing one's mind. That is the essence of learning and growing.



Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones
Senior Minister

This fall I would like to offer an adult ed class which invites us to examine more intentionally the raw experience of our lives to distill the life lessons we have learned. By sharing our experiences together, I would hope that these lessons would become more discernible, that we might learn from each other, and that we might draw closer as we get to know each other more personally. "Life Lessons" will meet 7:00-8:30 p.m. on the last four Tuesdays of October:

Oct. 10: Who are three people who have had the greatest impact on your life?

Oct. 17: What have been three of the most important decisions you have made in your life?

Oct. 24: What have been two of the saddest and two of the happiest experiences of your life?

Oct. 31: If your life story were a novel, what would be the title and the main plot?

These are undoubtedly serious questions, but if we answer them together, I think we will also find that they are fun. Participants will share only what they feel comfortable sharing, and we will keep our conversations confidential. Please email neal@mluc.org to participate. I'm looking forward to sharing with you and learning from you. -Neal

DAWNING THOUGHTS

Thank you to our teachers in the children and youth Faith Development program! By the time you read this classes and groups for ages 3 - 18 will have been underway for several weeks. We are fortunate to have many dedicated adults willing to share their time on Sundays with our young people; we are even lucky enough to have a few youth who are helping out with younger kids' classes.



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

Deepest gratitude and respect to: Alan Scholl, Ava Blummer, Barbara Welsh, Carolyn Jaeger, Carr Everbach, Carrie Nielsen, Caryn Kayser, David Blumer, Debby Smith, Don Walker, Dusty Welsh, Dyann Roth, Eden Kayser, Gail Burgess, Gina Trignani, Jann Nielsen, Jenette Wheeler, Jessica Michael, John Heller, Julia Weber, Kary Heller, Kent Zehner, Kent Sprunger, Mark Chandler, Matt Borchelt, Megan Capewell, Pamela Lehman, Patrick Wright-Riley, Paul Costa, Rob Eames, Roderick Wolfson, Ruth Cook, Scott Turner, Sue Smith, and Wendy Schmid. There are likely a few names missing from this list, because we still have a few more folks to recruit. If you know these people or you run into them at church, please thank them yourself - whether you have a child in the program or not. We are all enriched by their commitment!

"The great end in religious instruction, is not to stamp our minds upon the young, but to stir up their own; not to make them see with our eyes, but to look inquiringly and steadily with their own; not to give them a definite amount of knowledge, but to inspire a fervent love of truth; not to form an outward regularity, but to touch inward springs ..." - William Ellery Channing

THE SILVER SCREEN: ANNUAL AUCTION & FUNDRAISER

Saturday, November 4, doors at 6:00 p.m.

Auctioneers Joanne and Ron Rose will light up the screen and promenade the red carpet conducting another live auction & evening of fun. A silent auction will greet you upon arrival with something for everyone.

There'll be costume prizes, family fun, and appetizers galore—but BYO bubbly this year! A children's cartoon party will take place downstairs. Here's what you can do to make it a success:

- **Volunteer:** We need people to help with promotion, ticket sales, event setup, registration, checkout, closing down, or helping with the kids. Wanna pitch in? Contact Gene Ramsbottom (earamsbottom@gmail.com).
- **Donate:** What service or special item might you offer? Perhaps that vacation home you enjoy? How about a dinner or similar gathering for just a few? Can your business donate a service or gift certificate? Do you have a special talent or labor to offer? The final day to donate is October 8.

Visit mluc.org/community/auction to submit your donation form and view ideas from last year's brochure!



SUNDAY SERVICES

Services will be held at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

October 1: The Work of Being Well

Naomi Leapheart

Music: MLUC Choir

In the first few pages of Toni Cade Bambara's brilliant debut novel, *The Salt Eaters*, Minnie Ransom begins her healing work on Velma Henry this way: "Are you sure, sweetheart, that you want to be well? Just so's you're sure, sweetheart, and ready to be healed, cause wholeness is no trifling matter. A lot of weight when you're well." Bambara wisely understood that the essence of wholeness is courage, and courage is hard work. In a culture where "self-care" is a popular pastime yet many of us are still burned up and burned out, do we really know what it takes to be well?

October 8: Respecting the Dignity of the Undignified

Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones

Music: MLUC Choir

Our first UU Principle calls upon us to "affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person." Yet many of us find this principle impossible to practice in regard to the reprehensible words and actions of some in this polarized political climate. This struggling minister will offer some practical suggestions of how he attempts to meet this spiritual challenge.

October 15: The Continuing Shark Attack

Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones

Music: John Alston, Chester Children's Chorus Director

Roe v. Wade may have been decided 44 years ago, but the fate of reproductive choice is far from being decided, as the sharks of retreat and retrenchment continue their attacks on the rights and dignity of women.

October 22: The UU Umbrella

Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones

Music: Schrodinger's Cats

This "Bring a Friend" Sunday is the perfect time to invite a friend, relative, coworker, or neighbor to MLUC, as today's sermon will serve as an introduction to Unitarian Universalism.

October 29: The Embodied Spirit

Leslie Wright-Riley & Noelle Hammerbacher

Music: MLUC Choir

Ancient yogis believed that spiritual liberation—our connection to universal energy—required unblocked physical and mental pathways. The science of the nervous, respiratory, and cardiovascular systems didn't yet exist; still, the ancients believed that the well-being of these very pathways was required for spiritual health. In this service, the MLUC yoga instructors and the congregation will experience together some of the ways the body is the pathway for the spirit. With our breath, with our voices, with a focused mind....with our whole bodies.

LEGACY CIRCLE UPDATE

The Legacy Circle is off to a fantastic start! Since it was introduced last June, twenty-three congregants have shared their intention to include MLUC in their estate plans. The Legacy Circle honors all who name MLUC as a beneficiary of a will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy or other planned giving arrangement. Legacy Circle members include both past donors and those who share their intention to include the church in their estate plans in the future. The Legacy Circle roster will appear in MLUC's beautifully renovated Atrium and will be updated regularly. If you have taken this step, or if you intend to do so, please complete a Legacy Circle reply form and mail or deliver it to the church. For a copy of the Legacy brochure or reply form, please contact Carolyn Jaeger at 610-896-4644 or Mary Heil, Administrative Assistant, at mary@mluc.org.



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LEGISLATING UU VALUES

On October 15, immediately following the Advocacy Sunday service, you'll have another chance to let your legislators understand the UU perspective of current legislation. This time the topic is Reproductive Justice. This issue addresses the inequities involved in the choice of having or not having children, raising children safely, and expressing sexuality without fear, and is based on upholding the UU Principles "Justice, equity and compassion in human relations." We will work to increase awareness and take action on legislation advocating for change in inequities in Reproductive Justice. A brief overview of basic talking points will be given during the service. Please take 5 minutes after the service to sign postcards on this important issue. Assistance will be provided to help you find your representative's contact information. Donations for postcards and stamps are appreciated. Let's work together to put our faith in action! Find your legislator at: www.legis.state.pa.us



NOMINATE AN OFFERING OUTREACH RECIPIENT

Do you have a favorite charity? Is there a local nonprofit group that would benefit from a modest gift from MLUC's Offering Outreach program? We would LOVE to hear from you! Nominate your favorite charity for Offering Outreach and help MLUC make an impact on the community.

The committee meets monthly to consider awards and we depend on YOU, the members of the congregation to suggest worthy recipients. The nomination form is available on the church website under the Social Action tab at mluc.org or from Trevor Drake (bruledrake@gmail.com). Keep those suggestions coming.

OCTOBER OFFERING OUTREACH

This month's selected organization for Offering Outreach is the Women's Law Project (WLP), the only public interest law center in Pennsylvania that is devoted to the rights of women and girls. Established in 1974, WLP works across a spectrum of issues that affect women's legal status, health, and economic security. WLP does this through high-impact litigation, policy advocacy, and community education with a particular focus on reproductive rights, improving the institutional response to violence against women, challenging sex and gender discrimination, and advocating for workplace equality. WLP offers a telephone counseling service which provides information and referrals to thousands of women every year, on issues such as restraining orders, child custody, divorce, sexual harassment, and discrimination. Visit womenslawproject.org.

JUSTICE AND GERRYMANDERING: WHY REDISTRICTING REFORM MATTERS

Saturday, October 7, 9:00 a.m. - noon, at the Unitarian Society of Germantown

Pennsylvania is one of the most gerrymandered states in the country, but there's an historically unique opportunity right now to change this. Carol Kuniholm (chair and co-founder of Fair Districts PA) will explain the redistricting process and its impact on social policy in Pennsylvania with additional insights into New Jersey and national redistricting efforts. She will show how the current process undermines democracy, suggest a solution, and offer ideas on how all citizens can support and encourage change. After the presentation, participants will have the opportunity to break into small groups to learn more about what's happening in their area and ways they can get involved. www.greaterphillyuu.org/events/justice-and-gerrymandering

INSIGHT BOOK GROUP

On October 19 we will discuss the historical novel, *Lilli De Jong* by local author and journalist, Janet Benton. A relevant read for today's issues, this book is a carefully researched story about single motherhood in 19th century Philadelphia. Insight meets at 7:00 p.m. at MLUC. All interested readers welcome. Questions? Email jricka@verizon.net.

November Book: *Daring to Drive: A Saudi Woman's Awakening* by Manal Al-Sharif

December meeting: Insight will hold its annual holiday dinner and book exchange.

January Book: *Forest Dark* by Nicole Krauss

THE GREAT PUMPKIN

Domokos Vagyas, a board member of our partner church, the Várfalva Unitarian Church in Transylvania, Romania, shows off the pumpkin he grew on his farm from seeds MLUCers Jim and Wendy Schmid gave him when he and seven other members of the Várfalva church visited our church in October 2014. Whenever MLUCers Frank and Barbara Weber visit Várfalva, they stay with Domokos and his family.



UU PEN PALS

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) is an online UU church that serves UUs who do not have a brick and mortar church in their area, people who simply enjoy online church, and people who are incarcerated. As a nation we incarcerate more people than ever before. CLF is currently working with over 700 people in their prison ministry. Many individuals in prison have lost connections to family and friends and lack any outside social supports. By writing a letter once a month from the comfort of your home, you can reach out and help someone who is in a very difficult, lonely, and discouraged place.

The CLF makes being a pen pal safe and easy. Safety is assured by only using our first names, and mail goes through the CLF Boston office so location info is kept private. To learn more about the pen pal program, talk with Sally Fritzson or Lisa Jochum as they have both written letters for some time. You can also visit worthy.org/pen-pals/ for more details on CLF prison ministry.

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

MLUC will host IHN families beginning October 29 and ending November 12. Bob Batt and Sally Fritzson will be in the Atrium beginning on October 8 to sign up volunteers. You can also email sfritzson@gmail.com to sign up. This will be our last two-week hosting. Next year we will have five one-week hostings. As always, thank you for your help.

LECTURE LUNCHEON

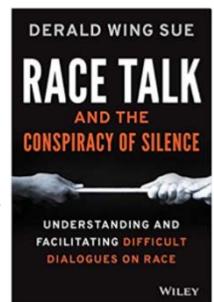
Wednesday, October 11, refreshments at 11:30, luncheon at noon

Members and friends of MLUC are invited to listen to this month's speaker, MLUC Member John Mason. He will discuss how the Federal Reserve works, what the Federal Reserve has decided at its September meeting, and how this will all play out given the politics relating to the debt ceiling. RSVP to tim.conahan@gmail.com by Sunday, October 8, so we know how many lunches to prepare.

RACE TALK: THE CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE

Sundays, October 15 and 29, 11:30-1:00 p.m.

The Racial Justice and Immigration Reform Committee is planning a book discussion on *Race Talk & The Conspiracy of Silence: Understanding and Facilitating Difficult Dialogues on Race* by Derald Wing Sue. "An enlightening account of why we still see race as a taboo discussion topic, how our silence harms us, and what we can do to change uncomfortable conversations into productive dialogues. Educators in K-12 and higher education, trainers, mental health professionals, and parents will appreciate this book's frankness and foundation in scientific evidence." Email register@mluc.org to RSVP. Request childcare via childcare@mluc.org



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

Visit mluc.org/support-your-church, fill out a quick form, and follow the instructions based on your preferred payment method. If you've already pledged, manage your payments/information anytime from tinyurl.com/mlucpayments.

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Artist Enzhao Liu, recent graduate of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA), will show his lively paintings in the Fireside Gallery from September 21 through November 2.

The public is invited to an opening reception on Sunday, October 8, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Virgil Marti, renowned art critic and PAFA instructor says of Liu's work:

"The paintings construct a rich, complex world – attempting to condense vast expanses of time and space into a cosmos of their own. They reach for the far depths of the universe and to the depths of the oceans – and also the virtual world and the space of the internet. World and Art histories combine with mythical origin stories – all existing simultaneously on the same picture plane. Spatially compressed, the paintings sing with the language of pattern and color. All are recognizable as being by the same hand, but a hand that is capable of myriad effects. One senses a profound joy in the materiality of pigment on surface and the restless search for ever more transmutations. The work of Enzhao Liu invites us on a journey of the imagination - and to explore the wonders of external and internal worlds."



QUESTIONS, COMPLIMENTS, CONCERNS (QC2) COMMITTEE

With so much going on at MLUC (e.g. construction, new pre-school) MLUC's Board of Trustees recognized the need for a "411" service for our church. In the 2016-2017 church year, our new Questions, Compliments, and Concerns (QC2) Committee was formed to be available and responsive to your queries. QC2 is a "one-stop shop" – we don't have all the answers, but instead our role is to identify and connect you with the appropriate MLUC resources. QC2 became active in the winter of 2017. Members, visitors, and staff contact us with any feedback or queries. QC2 gets you connected to the church representative relevant to your feedback. Issues such as law or policy violations are escalated immediately to the Board of Trustees.

What sorts of matters do you share with QC2?

To date, we have received approximately 40 items of feedback. Examples include:

- ◆ Question: "How do I get involved in a small group?" Another great one was, "I have not yet been contacted to make a Capital Campaign pledge. How do I do that?"
- ◆ Compliment: "I like the recent selections for Stories for All Ages, and I like that we can see the books on the new large screen in the Main Meeting Room."
- ◆ Concern: "It appears that the new chalice in the Main Meeting Room needs to be cleaned." (MLUC staff added a cleaning regimen for the new chalice, so all is good now!)

How do you get in touch with QC2?

To share with us, we invite you to:

- ◆ Stop by the QC2 table in the Fireside Room after every service, or
- ◆ Send an email to qc2mluc@gmail.com

If you have a passion for MLUC and an interest in improving our community for everyone, please contact Rob Eames (eames_robert@yahoo.com) to learn more about becoming a member of our committee (a QC2'er!). Committee members include: Rob Eames (Chair), Eileen Andrews, Anders Back, Adam Beck, Dana Kelly, and Nancy McDowell. Our trustee liaison is Rick Joers.

We are listening!
- QC2 Committee

If MLUC is like family to you, please include it in your will. Bequests of all sizes will support the church community and its work on behalf of justice, equity, compassion, religious freedom, and spiritual growth. For more information on planned giving, email endowment@mluc.org

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We express our support and concern for ...

Marile Marshall, whose 100-year-old mother, Jean Rounds, died on September 5.

Rich Fritzson, whose father died on September 29.

Ned Goodrich, who was discharged from Bryn Mawr Hospital on September 21 and has been transferred to the Watermark in Logan Square Philadelphia for rehab.

Mark Demitrack, whose 92-year-old mother, Sophie Andrew Demitrack died on August 20.

Nancy McDowell, who is recovering at home from surgery.

We express our appreciation for ...

Everyone who brought canned goods to donate at the September 19 Water Communion service and especially for **Ed Barrett**, who collected these donations for women and children who are staying at a shelter for survivors of domestic abuse.

Gibbs LaMotte, who brought the display of Memorial T-shirts of gun violence victims to the Main Meeting Room for our September 17 service.

Our Capital Campaign Implementation Coordinator, **David Van Ocker**, and our Executive Director, **Rich Fritzson**, for all of the renovations which have been completed inside and outside our building this summer, allowing the St. David's Nursery School to open on time. Both men were presented honorary hard hats during the September 17 service.

The Camp Canadensis Planning Committee: **Peter & Nancy McDowell, Barbara Colton, Noelle Hammerbacher, & Joe Campbell**, and for all those who helped once we arrived: **Julia, Mark, & Jason Hurle, Mark Chandler, Carol & Taylor Hillman, Lucy Demitrack, Danielle Almquist, Paul Costa, Jansen Wendell, Sue Compton, Tyler McDowell, & Jay Wiley**. 180 people from MLUC and nine other local UU congregations has a marvelous time on this first Labor Day weekend retreat at this camp in the Poconos.

We celebrate with ...

Nancy Wendell, who turned 90, and **Mary Huhn**, who turned 97, in September. The congregation sang Happy Birthday to both during the September 17 service.

Alex Homer, who leaves this week for Senegal to serve in the Peace Corps for the next two years.

Peter McDowell and **Barbara Colton** who surpassed their goal of 100 registrants for Camp Canadensis UU Weekend.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

October 2 and 16

Are you a caregiver looking for a place to share with others who are in your boat? This group meets on the first and third Mondays of each month throughout the year. The group gathers from 1:00-2:00 p.m. in the McGinness Room and is facilitated by the Parish Nurse, Jan Cauffman. Questions? Email jan@mluc.org.



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ON THE WEB

The complete MLUC calendar of events is online at www.mluc.org. Members can click the front page icon to request a room for their meeting or event.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

The newsletter of Main Line Unitarian Church is published 12 times a year. Submissions of 225 words or fewer are due on **October 10** for the November issue. Submit material to news@mluc.org. To learn more about communications at MLUC, contact Brianna Johnson (brianna@mluc.org).