



What's Happening

MAIN LINE UNITARIAN

MAY 2018

FAITH IN ACTION: LEGISLATING FOR OUR UU VALUES ECONOMIC JUSTICE

In May, our focus will be on legislation that addresses issues of economic justice, grounded in our first principle: the inherent worth and dignity of every person. At the May 6 service, Neal will highlight the initiatives of the Poor Peoples Campaign, which renews the call for a Moral Revival 50 years after the efforts of Dr. Martin Luther King in 1968. Over the next 40 days, beginning May 14, each week will focus on themes and have specific action days addressing important moral issues, including: the right to education, systemic racism and economic justice, the war economy and militarism, the right to health, the right to a living wage and housing - culminating in a national mobilization in Washington DC on Saturday, June 23.

The Poor People's Campaign challenges many of our moral narratives including the idea that our economy rewards hard-working individuals and the poor are to blame for their miserable conditions. As they so eloquently put it on their website, www.poorpeoplescampaign.org:

"The truth is that the millions of poor people in the United States today are poor because the wealth and resources of our country have been flowing to a small number of people and federal programs are not meeting the growing needs of the poor. Everybody has the right to live. Given the abundance that exists in this country and the fundamental dignity inherent to all humanity, every person in the United States has the right to housing, education, health care, welfare, decent and dignified jobs and the right to organize for the realization of these rights."

Now, doesn't that sound a lot like our first principle? Please take a few moments after the May 6 service to sign postcards to our legislators urging them to address these inequities.

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK NEWS

The Interfaith Hospitality Network has been an important part of MLUC's social justice work for 9 years. During that time, we have provided a safe place for more than 90 families to live while they got back on their feet financially. Bob Batt and I have coordinated it from the beginning. In addition, one of our members, Amy Deahl-Greenlaw has served as the board president of IHN and another, Joe Lipton, is currently their treasurer. We are partners in this work. Although this has been very rewarding work, this year will be my last year as an IHN coordinator. I'm stepping down to give myself a chance to work on other projects and to make room for someone else to inject new energy and creativity into this role.

If interested in taking on this role, Bob and I would love to talk with you about it. New tools like SignUp Genius have made it easier to coordinate the volunteering side of the work. The primary responsibility is to make sure that each hosting week runs smoothly and that families are well cared for. If this sounds like something you would like to do, please get in touch.

-Sally Ann Fritzson (sfritzson@gmail.com)

LECTURE LUNCHEON

Wednesday, May 9, Refreshments at 11:30, Lunch at Noon

This program will feature Dr. Vincent Craig on the piano and a discussion on music. Reservations necessary. RSVP to tim.conahan@gmail.com.

*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.



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MINISTERIAL MUSINGS

Goodbye to Our 3-D Friend

Easter Sunday was also April Fool's Day. I wish it was an April Fool's joke, but it wasn't. It was the last day of work for our adored custodian, Will Quay (though he wasn't required to work that day). He was that Sunday's honorary Chalice Lighter, and the congregation gave him a standing ovation to show our appreciation for his 20 years of service. His supervisor and fellow prankster, Facilities Coordinator, Ron D'Annunzio, presented him with a plaque listing the three D's of Will's service to MLUC – Dedication to our community, Determination to do the best job possible, and Desire to be helpful. Then Will's mother, a retired Episcopal minister, Rev. Joy Mills, told the congregation what we had meant to him through the years, giving him a sense of purpose and a refuge of support during times of loss. Then she wrote us this letter:

Dear Beloved Community,
A week later and the celebration of Will's time and ministry among you still warms my heart profoundly. I was deeply moved by the mutual love and caring you and he shared. One person expressed to me how he has blossomed over these 20 years: "The first year or two he was pretty quiet; then he started to come alive." Now he is in full bloom. You shared your sense of humor with one another, a gift he developed strongly in charming ways over these years. He gave to you from a well deep within him that was broadened and nurtured by your and his consistent presence during times of often heart wrenching change as well as day-to-day constancy.

You also held him in his grief as many of his cherished relatives died while he worked among you, beginning with his father (2000), grandfather (2001), stepfather (2002) who raised him, uncle Robin (2014), and his grandmother (2012). Some of you became family in their stead. Some of you invited and/or welcomed him into your homes these past weeks when we were selling our home as well as dealing with the beginning of my metastatic cancer treatment. You have been church for us also. Always know that this is who you are as a community with your variety of gifts, gifts that you continue to share with one another and beyond the walls of MLUC. I will always remember your celebrating Will, the hugs I saw him give you as well as the ones you gave me.

On his behalf I thank you for your cards and gifts. I know he will keep them in an album along with each of the photos people have sent to me. These photos will be put on a CD for him before I leave in mid-May for our home on Peaks Island, 18 ferry minutes off Portland. He can see the ferry leaving Portland from one of his windows!

Please keep in touch. His new home is: 14 E. Street, South Portland, ME 04106. His cell is 610-207- 6283. His email is willcquay@gmail.com.

I send blessings to each of you,
Joy Mills

And it has been a blessing to all of us at MLUC to have known Will Quay



Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones
Senior Minister

DAWNING THOUGHTS

This month we will take a little time to recognize many, many years of service from Ann Keech – the Clay Lady! I was so excited when I arrived here last fall to learn of Ann's tradition of visiting any children's faith development class that invited her with clay and tools. She has been providing an opportunity for the children to get messy, experiment, and create since 1988 – a full 30 years!



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

Ann has also worked with a number (although I don't think it's 30 years worth) of Stepping Stone classes – a UU Identity class for our 3rd graders – to create a group project in the form of a Stepping Stone. These stones used to be displayed in the church and hopefully some will be re-mounted soon.

I am sorry to see Ann go, but happy for her to be able to move forward freely into another phase of her life and life as an artist. We will share about her work here at MLUC as the Time for All Ages on Sunday, May 13, and honor her with a cake at social hour (read more on page 6). Barbara Welch and Debby Smith have taken on the planning. Please join us for the celebration!



MLUC'S FAMILY-ORIENTED SPRING DAY OF SERVICE

Saturday, May 12 (All work gloves and equipment provided)
For this year's annual day of service, we will 'spring' into action with a little gardening. Neighborhood Gardens Trust acquires and preserves community gardens. On May 12, we'll assist at Glenwood Green Acres located at 1801 W. Glenwood Avenue in North Philadelphia. Preserved by NGT in 1997, gardeners here grow vegetables and flowers, many of which help feed families and support the local food cupboard. Carpools will depart from MLUC at 9:15 a.m. We will work onsite from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. Light lunch provided. Feel free to bring your own lunch. Children are encouraged to participate. RSVPs are not required but appreciated. Email greensanctuary@mluc.org to RSVP or sign up in the Atrium after the service.

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

MAY 6: EXPLODING BOMBS, BUDGETS, & BELIEFS

Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones

Music: Justin Solonynka, piano

The current Poor People's Campaign is reviving Dr. Martin Luther King's last campaign all across the country, including in Pennsylvania. King warned of "the giant triplets of racism, materialism, and militarism," to which the current campaign adds the threat of ecological devastation. We have addressed each of these sins during our Legislative Advocacy Sundays, except militarism. We shall do so this Sunday.

MAY 13: YOUR LEGACY

Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones

Whether we intend to or not, each of us is leaving a bequest. We will consider our various legacies, including our spiritual legacy.

MAY 20: NO TIME

Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones

Music: MLUC Choir

Everyone seems to be busy, including retired people. Is our busyness a symptom of something deeper?

MAY 27

Naomi Washington Leapheart

Music: Wendy Schmid, soprano

MAY OFFERING OUTREACH

Located in West Chester, The Volunteer English Program (VEP) serves immigrants and refugees in Chester County who seek to empower themselves through English language skills and American cultural understanding. VEP has a unique one-to-one approach and provides services in the community rather than in a classroom. The program supports speakers of all languages and has served people speaking at least 30 different languages. VEP meets students wherever they are on the path of literacy and proficiency, regardless of income or residency status. VEP recruits and trains more than 100 volunteers each year to take on this important work.

EXPLORING PRACTICES: A DAY OF MINDFULNESS & MEDITATION

Saturday, May 5, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

MLUC is excited to host meditation teacher, Lelia Calder, who will lead a meditation retreat designed to explore a variety of mindfulness and meditation practices. The day will include traditional silent meditation, chanting, and movement for participants at all levels.

Registration forms can be found in the Atrium at the Religious Education table or online at mluc.org/about/news. \$20 suggested donation | \$10 lunch (optional) | No one will be turned away for lack of funds. Lelia Calder has studied and practiced in many different meditative traditions. Her training as a meditation instructor is in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition. She has done extensive practice, including the traditional Three Year Retreat at Gampo Abbey, under the guidance of Pema Chodron who has been her main teacher for the last twenty years. Visit leliacalder.com



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MEASURING THE MISSION

As a trustee and president of the board, I have been giving a lot of thought to how might our church community move towards the goals of our mission? I have been working on a task force with Sue Drummond and Michelle Blumer to address how we measure our progress towards our mission.

For me the essence of the mission is “we transform lives.” As Unitarian Universalists we each define our own beliefs. Therefore, we each need to define both what transformation we seek in our own lives and how we can make a difference in the lives of others. Participating in our church community can provide a variety of paths to deepen our Unitarian Universalist faith. The relationships, service, experiences, and reflection on meaning can all transform us.

I have deepened my spirit through my involvement at MLUC. Each week, at least one aspect of church life offers me a new, meaningful message or source of reflection. I’m trying to live in the world mindfully, ethically, and with kindness and generosity – and in this way touch others.

I appreciate learning from Nuala Carpenter that fulfilling the mission is not attained merely by the church creating lots of good programs. Rather we need to make a difference in people’s lives. If we believe that each person needs to define transformation for themselves, then we will not measure it statistically. We instead need to share our experiences and talk with each other about deepening our spirit as Unitarian Universalists. Is your life being transformed?

- Roderick Wolfson

NOMINEES

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present our congregation with the following candidates for the Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee. In the coming weeks, you will have the opportunity to sign a petition in the Fireside Room to make your nomination official. Please be sure to attend the annual Congregational Meeting on May 20 and vote for these talented, dedicated individuals to serve our church in the coming years. Read more about each candidate on the poster in the Atrium.



Running for Board – Craig Farr



Running for Board – Jess Michael



Running for Board – Carolyn Jaeger



Running for Committee On Ministerial Health – Trish Brandon



Running for Nominating Committee – Bruce Pappas



Running for Nominating Committee – Carol Snyder

FAITH IN ACTION SUNDAY

The children in our Faith Development program in grades K–5 learned about our Partner Church in Várfalva, Transylvania, Romania, on Faith in Action Sunday, April 8. Aided by members of the Partner Church Committee, they studied a map to find Romania and saw slides of the Unitarian Church of Várfalva and the surrounding village and countryside, as well as slides of some of our friends from the church, including those who visited MLUC in 2014.

After the presentation, each child received a booklet that tells the story of our partnership. The booklets contain a map, photographs, and images that the children colored. The booklets also include a brief glossary of Hungarian words, the language our ethnically Hungarian partners speak. The pronunciation guide inspired several children to try out brief phrases. At the end everyone said, “Viszlát” (good-bye).



UUWORLD MAGAZINES

If you have recent *UU World* magazines lying around the house, please pass them along to us so we can share them with visitors. Please leave them in Jessica Hirsch Lynn's mailbox or bring them directly to the Welcome Table.

RAINBOW ALLIANCE POTLUCK

Friday, May 18, 6:30 p.m. at MLUC

LGBTQ, allies, family, & friends - All are welcome. RSVP and dinner contributions can be sent by May 14 to Mary Stromquist (mail@marystromquist.com; 610-647-5170), or after May 2 to Ann Hiller (annie2sail217@gmail.com, 610-644-5452).

LOOKING FOR A MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT A BIG COMMITMENT?

Great – call me... I've got some volunteer jobs for you. MLUC is seeking help on Sunday mornings this Spring and Summer (and Fall and Winter). Yes, it's important and makes a difference to the community, but if those reasons aren't specific enough to add your name to our volunteer lists, here are a few more:

- ♦ It's fun. Look at our volunteers and you'll see happy faces.
- ♦ You can do it with your children – and instill your passion for helping others through deeds.
- ♦ It'll help you meet new people – volunteers are like magnets for people seeking conversation.
- ♦ You'll make MLUC a welcoming place for visitors. What a great gift!
- ♦ Volunteering makes you feel good. We could all use a little of that.
- ♦ You will earn a volunteer pin for your nametag. Everyone loves presents!
- ♦ You will bring the mission statement into your own life – transforming lives through service.
- ♦ We really need you, all year long.



Jessica Hirsch Lynn,
Membership Coordinator

When you're ready, here are the jobs and the people organizing them. Please reach out. Training will be provided!

Greeters: Alan Scholl (alanscholl@me.com); Welcome Table: Jessica Michael (jessicamichael@hotmail.com or sign up at the Welcome Table); Ushers: David Hucker (oldgreyoak@aol.com); Green Stripers: Mary Kane (marykanart@gmail.com). Of course, you can always call me too. I'm happy to help you find just the right way to get involved. (jessica@mluc.org; 610-688-8332 x26;)

You already know that Sunday volunteering is a meaningful way to make a positive contribution to your church and requires nothing but smiles and a welcoming presence. Start any time – no need to wait until Fall. Training is easy. Our appreciation will be great.

ANTI-MASS INCARCERATION COMMITTEE

If a "picture is worth a thousand words," imagine what visiting an inmate in prison would be like. If you are interested in such an experience, please attend a meeting at 11:30 on May 13 in the Wonder Room. Dana Kelley will lead a discussion about what to expect and what is needed for you to be cleared to enter the Chester State Correctional Facility.

Psssst! ... 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.

ARTISTS OF THE MONTH: ANN KEECH RETROSPECTIVE

This MLUC retrospective (on display May 12 through June 11) gives Ann Keech an opportunity to reflect on how making art has enriched and impacted her life, magnifying her awareness and awe of the visual world. Much of this comes from doing art with her own children and grandchildren, 30 years as the 'Clay Lady' at MLUC, decades of designing play-and-learn activities and workshops at Please Touch Museum, and 16 years as a member of the Philadelphia Dumpster Divers, the nationally recognized collective of found object artists.

After 30 years of sharing her knowledge of UUism and her creativity, Ann is retiring as the Clay Lady. **We will honor her during the service and at a reception on May 13.** All children and adults are invited. A birthright, fifth-generation UU, Ann has deep roots in UUism. Studying the UUA curriculum, she incorporated clay-creating ideas for classes. She took the children's finished work home to dry in her kiln. The fired pieces were returned for display at MLUC and then went home with their creators. One of Ann's favorite clay forms is our UU symbol, the chalice. As the children designed and made their own clay chalices, they heard the story of how the chalice became our symbol.

For many years, Ann also organized the annual MLUC Children and Youth Art Exhibit, which combined art and social action. She is an exhibiting member of Philadelphia Sculptors, and her work has been exhibited in shows and shops along the East Coast. Her award-winning found object assemblages have been selected for juried exhibits throughout the East Coast and for the International Assemblage Exhibit, Berlin, Germany. In addition, her work is included in *American Style Magazine* 2005, has been given special recognition by the Philadelphia Inquirer's art critic, and featured in the beautiful book *Found Object Art 2*. Ann encourages people of all ages to play with clay. You'll discover an easy, engaging material to explore and create with. She hopes her found object work will inspire you to find the stories in common objects, reminding us of another time. Who used that? Where has it been? How was it lost? See her work at: www.dumpsterdivers.org

Opening Reception: Friday, May 12, 5:00-7:00 p.m.



Blue-eyed, Blue-tailed Found Bug
From the Wambach Collection"



SAVE THE DATE: THE SOUL OF MONEY BOOK DISCUSSION

Wednesday, May 23 & 30, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Led by Executive Director Rich Fritzson (rich@mluc.org)

"A life-changing read. With warmth, honesty, and storytelling, Lynne turns everything we think we know about money upside down...It's the book we all need right now." -Brené Brown, Ph.D.

The Soul of Money: Transforming Your Relationship with Money and Life by Lynne Twist is a liberating book that shows us how examining our attitudes toward money—earning it, spending it, and giving it away—offers surprising insight into our lives. Through personal stories and practical advice, Lynne Twist asks us to discover our relationship with money, understand how we use it, and by assessing our core human values, align our relationship with it to our desired goals. In doing so, we can transform our lives. **Register at mluc.org/faith-development/adults.**

SAVE THE DATE: HELLO

If you were unable to make it to the Living and Dying Well event in which the game Hello was facilitated, you'll have another chance this September. This time the event will take place in the evening to accommodate more of your schedules. Hello is a game that helps break the ice and get people talking about end of life care and decision-making.

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

CANDLES OF COMMUNITY

We express our support and concern for ...

Nancy and Al Wambach, whose home was severely damaged by a fallen tree in the recent snow storm. Fortunately, both Nancy and Al were unharmed.

The **family of Linda Merrill Courtemanche**, who died on March 19 after a brief illness.

Gary Merken, whose brother Robert died on April 2.

Claudia McBride and her husband **Ken**, whose cousin's son, Marine Capt. Sam Schultz, died in a helicopter crash on April 3.

The family of **Claire Fitzgerald**, who died on April 5.

Beth Fuhr, who was a patient at Paoli Hospital for a swollen leg.

Carl Zweben, who was hospitalized for minor foot surgery and infection.

Betty Graham, whose daughter Patty died Thursday.

Diane Kyker, whose father died at the end of April.

Don Kane, who has returned home from the hospital and is receiving hospice care.

Donna Monturo Lipton, whose 91-year-old father, Samuel Monturo, died on April 9.

Laura Potak-Gibbs, whose husband **David** died on April 21 after battling cancer for the past two years.

We express our appreciation to ...

Lisa Jochum, the Racial Justice Committee, and all other volunteers who made possible MLUC's hosting of the Jubilee Anti-Racism Workshop and the panel discussion of the 8th Principle during the first weekend of March. Twelve MLUC members attended the workshop!

Jessica Hirsch Lynn (our Membership Coordinator), the Membership Committee (**Sandy Gargus, Mike Carpenter, Alan Scholl, Alan Silverman, Jess Michaels, Nina Selsor, Kelly Wren**), and one of our Small Group Ministry groups (**Jenette Wheeler, Eileen Andrews, Darcia Mobley, Ken Rainey**) for hosting our New Member Dinner on Saturday, March 10. Twenty-three new members attended: Denise & Bill Pettit, Dave Warren, Claudia Gard, Gary Geoghegan & Valerie Sarris, Jonathan Burgwin, Larry Fizz, Keith Aumiller, Lauren Gard, Liz & Kevin Bligan, Marie & Roy Lewis, Nancy Ladd, Olive Ledlie, Veronica Selig, Don Wilson, Nathan Surles & Elizabeth Clay, Carrie & Greg Reif, John McCormick.

Everyone who helped with our Spring Cleanup to spruce up our church grounds: **Priscilla & Frank Osgood, Osgood Sabine Rehm, Mike Carpenter, Sue Drummond, Ann Goodman, David Hucker, Sarah Kinder, Lin Koenig, Carolyn & Wolfgang Jaeger, Darcia Mobley, Dana & Mick Navaline, Janet Walheim, Jenette & Jamie Wheeler.**

Everyone who participated in the March for Our Lives in Philadelphia and Washington, DC, to remember and honor the students who were killed in the mass shooting in Florida and to demand commonsense gun regulation.

Our Executive Director, **Rich Fritzson**; the Stewardship Committee, **Bobbie Potsic, Alan Scholl, Kevin Thomas**; food donors, **Sue Compton, Tara Eames, Gina Trignani, Jane LaMotte, Betsy McIlwain, Marlies Singh, Trish Brandon, Mary Stromquist, Kary Heller, Ruth Cook, Jenette Wheeler, Sally Fritzson, Alan Scholl**; and kitchen helpers, **Amy Kokas, Jane LaMotte, Trish Brandon, Betsy McIlwain, Barbara Colton, and Mary Banks** for making this year's Pledge Sunday one of the most fun events our church has had.

David Hucker, Tom Farr, Sabine Rehm, Alan Silverman, Frank and Priscilla Osgood for planting five trees at the church on Sunday, April 8.

Everyone who participated in the April 16 rally at the State Capitol to urge our legislators to end gerrymandering. That evening several members attended the Tredyffrin Township meeting to urge our supervisors to support a resolution calling for the same action, which they did.

We express our congratulations to ...

Katherine and Jacqueline, daughters of **RoseAnn Scanlon**, who earned academic honors during their fall semester at the Academy of Notre Dame.

Jason Hurler for his outstanding performance in Radnor High's production of *All Shook Up*.

Dana Navaline, Paula Rhodes, and Joanne Rose for being honored by Community Volunteers in Medicine for their cumulative 30 years of volunteer service.

Madelaine Sayko for her appointment by Gov. Wolf to his Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities.



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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 **May 10** for the June issue. Submit material to news@mluc.org. To learn more about communications at MLUC, contact Brianna Johnson (brianna@mluc.org).