



# The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

January 2012

**Sunday Services**  
10:00 and 11:30 am

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**Kent, Ohio 44240**  
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Tuesday - Friday  
By appointment

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**Deadline:**

The 15th each month

**Paradox Defined**

by Merriam-Webster

a tenet contrary to received opinion

a statement that is seemingly contradictory or opposed to common sense  
and yet is perhaps true

one (as a person, situation, or action) having seemingly contradictory  
qualities or phases

In ordinary usage, when we talk about a paradox we are usually talking about contradiction. For example, I might say that my goal for the new year is to have less clutter in my life. If I then get tempted to go shopping for new ornaments in the after Christmas sales and along the way pick up several other discounted items that would be great in my home – well then my behavior would be paradoxical. Or take some other examples - if we want to be healthier but we refuse to change our diets – that is a paradox. If we want to get more sleep but will not alter our habits – that is a paradox. Most of us live with some kind of personal paradox. Sometimes coming to understand our contradictions motivates us to make lasting change. Other times we just settle into the recognition of our contradictions favoring the feeling of being comfortable over any other aspirations we might have. And then there are the times we might feel drawn to celebrate our contradictions. I think of the line from Walt Whitman, “Do I contradict myself? / Very well then I contradict myself, / (I am large, I contain multitudes).”

In addition to whatever paradox we might find in our personal lives, many of us encounter paradox in our spiritual lives. For example, theologically I would describe myself as a naturalistic, mystical humanist with a concept of God. I believe that human hands are the only hands available to do the work of creating justice *and* I believe in the power of prayer. It would be completely fair for someone to describe my theology as paradoxical. That is okay with me, because I am completely comfortable in the paradox. I might even be inclined to reply in the words of Mr. Whitman.

The Unitarian Universalist minister Tom Owen-Towle says that Unitarian Universalism is especially compelling for people who are comfortable with spiritual paradox. In fact, he says, “we seem to pitch our tents between mysticism and humanism, theism and naturalism, belief and doubt, devotion and skepticism. We are a reasonable religion with mystical sensibilities. My colleague Frances West puts it sagely: ‘The humanist and the theist live in me, each sometimes puzzled by the presence of the other, but willing to keep talking. So may it continue.’”

And so may our exploration together continue this month as we delve into questions of spiritual and religious paradox. Happy New Year everyone. I’ll look forward to seeing you in church.

*(see note concerning change in Melissa’s schedule, p. 2—Ed.)*

## Upcoming Sermons

24 December

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Services*

Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Kristina Spaude

6:30 pm A special family friendly service of lessons and carols to welcome the spirit of Christmas into the world.

8:30 pm A special service of lessons and carols to welcome the spirit of Christmas into the world.

30 December

*A Loaf is only Half a Loaf Unless We Share It*

**one intergenerational service only—10 am**

Lois Weir and assisted by Liz Bright

We will explore and celebrate the ancient rite of bread making. Service is adapted from the Worship Arts Clearing House of the Department of Education and Social Concern UUA 1975.

6 January

*Connections Across Cultures: The Mayan Sacred Book*

Lori McGee and Worship Associate Trish McLoughlin

The Mayan civilization had long disbanded by the time the conquistadors arrived in central Mexico. Their culture, however, was still alive and being disseminated orally through stories from the Mayan sacred text, The Popol Vuh. By examining some of the stories found in this sacred text, we can see how Mayan theology and Unitarian Universalism have many connections. This service will explore those connections and how they may impact us today.

13 January

*Blessings and Curses*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Justin Czekaj

We often speak of blessings and curses as entirely separate and completely opposed. Could it be, though, that at times the line between the two isn't quite so clear?

20 January

*Justice and Mercy*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Joel Slater

Shall we extend justice or mercy? Or shall we extend justice and mercy? Is that even possible? That is what we will explore this morning during our annual celebration of the life and ministry of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Our service this morning will be multigenerational – children in grades 1 and higher will stay for the entire service.

27 January

*To Be Announced*

A guest and Worship Associate Elaine Bowen

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## Change in Melissa's schedule

I am excited to have been accepted into *Beyond the Call*, a two year program for experienced Unitarian Universalist ministers who want to deepen their practice of ministry. I will attend four retreats over the course of two years focused on the study of worship and preaching. In between retreats I will have assignments to complete at home. My first retreat is at the end of January and is coupled with the Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association Institute for Excellence in Ministry. Though I will be in FL from January 25 – February 1, I will be available for urgent concerns via cell phone.

Peace,



### Robert Wood Retrospective

The Library committee would like to remind everyone that the Library's guest speaker for the 2013 Speaker's Forum will be Mara DeMattia, archivist for the late Robert Wood's collection. Her presentation will be held February 3rd, Sunday afternoon at 3:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary, followed by discussion and a reception in Founder's Lounge. This event is free and open to the public.

Robert Wood, long an iconic personality in the Kent community and among area artists, died unexpectedly at the age of 68 on February 5, 2012. His large body of work includes oils, watercolors and computer generated designs. It is the work of an archivist to research and document the date of all creative work, to record pertinent biographical information related to each work such as the location and circumstances of the work, his teachers, colleagues and friends who may have been a part a part of his artistic circle, and any professional exhibits in which he participated. The process becomes a fascinating detective project, particularly when works are scattered all over NE Ohio and the East coast, as are those of Mr. Wood. Since coming to Kent, DeMattia has had a long standing interest in Wood's creative output. Her initial interest was sparked by John Kluth, of the John Kluth Gallery in Kent. They are working together on an Oral History of Mr. Wood as part of a planned biography of the artist.

DeMattia's previous work as an archivist began when she was contracted by the Herman Miller Furniture Company (Zeeland, Michigan). Over a 3-year period she organized their extensive photo collection of innovative designs manufactured since 1917. She documented the pictures, selected images to build a visual history of the company which were then framed and displayed throughout the buildings of the company. These photos may also be found through archive codes designed by DeMattia at Greenfield Village, Dearborn, Michigan.

DeMattia received a Bachelor of Arts degree in drawing and sculpture from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She was a volunteer Lecturer in Art History at Lorain Community College, and a set designer for area community theaters in the mid 1990's. DeMattia lives in Kent with her husband, Rick, and their three daughters, Rosalyn, Eleanor, and Lillian.

*Ann Waters, Library Publicity*

### Moderator's Musings

With the beginning of a new year, we often pause to consider where we are in the journey of life, the journey towards a better future, a journey full of service and hope. You are invited to join the UUCK Board on Sunday, January 27 after the second service as we share the latest information on where we are in reaching our goals of growth and expansion. Please come for Pancakes and Chat in Fessenden Hall at 12:45.

*Kathie Slater*



Lee Brooker hangs a wreath during church decoration day, December 2, after second service.

## Recent Simple Gifts

Below are the recent donations in the past month to the Simple Gifts endowment fund.

Bonnie Harper - in memory of Pat Pownall  
 Claudia Miller - in memory of Pat Pownall  
 Saunis Parsons - in memory of Pat Pownall  
 Chris Hurlbut - in memory of Pat Pownall  
 Kathie & Joel Slater – in thanks for Bonnie & Joe Harper's  
 friendship  
 Cheryl Spoehr – in appreciation for the Thanksgiving  
 meal  
 Claudia Miller – in memory of Clinton Hobbs  
 Marion Yeagler - in memory of Pat Pownall  
 Debra Lynn & Steve Hook - no dedication



Logan Bores tries on a bit of Christmas spirit while decorating the church.

## WhaleCoast Alaska 2013

Have you always dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, **WhaleCoast Alaska 2013** is for you! Four Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bear, whales, bald eagles, seals, and caribou. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Enjoy all that our beautiful state has to offer. Programs led by Dave Frey, a member of the Fairbanks, Alaska UU congregation, an expert in Alaska travel. To find out more about your Alaskan trip of a lifetime, visit [www.WhaleCoastAK.org](http://www.WhaleCoastAK.org), email [dfrey@whalecoastak.org](mailto:dfrey@whalecoastak.org), or call 907-322-4966. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

--

Dave Frey  
 WhaleCoast Alaska

## Generosity

I was raised in the Methodist tradition so I grew up hearing this adage from the theologian, John Wesley:

*Do all the good you can,  
 By all the means you can,  
 In all the ways you can,  
 In all the places you can,  
 At all the times you can,  
 To all the people you can,  
 As long as ever you can.*

It's not just the Methodists who live generous lives. The Unitarian Universalists of Kent do so, as well! Once again, I am awed by the generosity of our church community.

Together we collected enough new toys for Kent Social Services to fill three car trunks and \$581.60 to purchase gift cards as Christmas presents for the homeless military veterans residing at Freedom House. An additional \$75.00 was donated specifically to Miller Community House. The members of the RE Committee are happy to facilitate these giving opportunities during the winter holiday season. Our generosity means that many folks in the Kent community will have a brighter Christmas.

We are a generous congregation that says "Yes!" Evidence of this is everywhere. A large part of the ministry of our church is accomplished by generous volunteers who give of their time, talent and experience with an attitude of generosity that inspires others to do the same.

We are generous in the ways that we hold each other in times of joy or sorrow. Our hearts are open to each other as we offer genuine mutual support--in person and on Facebook!

And we show up. As a community, we are very faithful church attendees! We support each other's special events, as well.

In faith and with love,  
 Karen Lapidus, Director of Religious Education





## Time for Winter Institute!

Have you registered for Winter Institute yet? This relaxing, fun, and "schedule free" weekend is an intimate gathering for UUs of all ages. There are frosty outdoor activities like sledding, hiking and cross country skiing. For those who choose to stay in their slippers all weekend, there is a beautiful lodge with its many cozy corners and fireplaces. The pool and hot tub are truly a winter-time treat. There are fellow UUs always ready to play board games or to join in the community jigsaw puzzle. We have wonderful community worship services and great conversations. Join us February 25-28 at Salt Fork State Park Lodge near Cambridge, OH. Registration and details at

<http://www.ohiomeadville.org/omdevents/552-wi2013>

## Environmental Justice "Write a Letter" Day

The Environmental Justice Task Force is organizing a legislative advocacy event during Coffee Hour on January 20th. Issue-focused tables will offer an opportunity to write a letter which the Task Force will mail. Please consider staffing a table for an environmental issue about which you are passionate and plan to stop by during coffee hour on January 20. Contact Andrew Rome for more information.

## Book Group

The Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, January 8 at 7 pm at the home of Betty Kendrick, 175 Graham Road, Apt. 12 in Cuyahoga Falls. In January we'll be sharing books we received as gifts or any book of your choice. In February, we will be reading *Beautiful Lies: A Novel* by Lisa Unger. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper.



*Logan Bores was decorating a little Christmas tree in the nursery.*

*Brad - "Why are you decorating that tree? It's not even Thanksgiving!"*

*Logan- "I don't know, I just want to get it done. I guess I'm a precrastinator."*

## Book Reviews by Martha Kluth

Most of us have some involvement with parenting practices, whether as a parent, grandparent or a judgmental outsider. I think two books from the Family Life category are especially pertinent to this subject.

*Living Simply With Children: a voluntary simplicity guide for moms, dads, and kids who want to reclaim the bliss of childhood and the joy of parenting*, by Marie Sherlock, (Three Rivers Press, New York, c 2003). It covers such topics as how (and why) to live simply and find more time to be with your children, realistic ways to reclaim your children from corporate America, and how to focus on the "good stuff" with less stuff.

*Last Child in the Woods: saving our children from nature-deficit disorder*, by Richard Louv, (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, c 2008 rev. and expanded ). From the author: "The children and nature movement is fueled by this fundamental idea: the child is an endangered species, and the health of children and the health of the Earth are inseparable."

*Ann Waters, Library Publicity*



Gia Marfy places an ornament high on the little Christmas tree by the sanctuary.

## What Moves Us: Unitarian Universalist Theology

Co-facilitated by Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and  
Rev. Christie Anderson

Tuesday from 7pm to 9pm in the Founders Lounge  
January 22 – February 26

This series, begun last fall, provides an opportunity to consider the intersection of our theology and our emotions. Each session stands alone, thus new participants are welcome to join us at any time. No prior experience is required for this series which will be of value for both new and long tenured Unitarian Universalists.

This curriculum provides an opportunity for personal reflection and Unitarian Universalist education. In every meeting we offer an opportunity to learn about the life experiences of some noteworthy Unitarian Universalist theologians, highlighting that which caused in them a change of heart, a new direction, new hope, and a deeper understanding of their own liberal faith. These are offered as a launching ground for our personal theological reflection, not as an intellectual exercise, but as a process of meaning-making that equips us for living in the world. Created by the Rev. Dr. Thandeka, the program offers a pathway for developing not only our own personal theology but also for deepening understanding of the threads of our Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist theological heritage.

Statements from people who participated in this class in the fall:

"I found this adult RE class engaging because it combined the historical figures in our religious movement with the theology of our religion."

"Taking one aspect of one prominent Unitarian or Universalist's theology and discussing it through our present day lens' is illuminating and spirit building in a non-academic, relaxed format."

"Exploring theology is too often left to the theologians, while the lay members rarely get a chance to analyze and think about how to apply theological insights into their own lives. Theology tends to be abstract and somewhat removed from day to day life, something it shares with philosophy. But this series helps its participants to move in both directions of theology to experience and experience to theology. How do we see the specific and individual as part of the whole, and how does the larger theological view help us to put our experiences into a larger and holier perspective?"



Holiday scenes  
around our church



## January Church Events

<b>30</b> 10:00 One Service only 11:00 Pancakes 7-9 AA FH	<b>31</b> 5-7:00 FinSecs A 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	<b>1</b> <i>New Year's Day</i>	<b>2</b> 6:30-9:30 Sunday Program A 6:30-8:30 RE cmte F 7-9 Choir rehearse	<b>3</b> 7-8:30 sing-along F 7:30-9 AA	<b>4</b> 6-12 OMD Young Adults church	<b>5</b> OMD Young Adults church 10-12:00 Hogwarts A
<b>6</b> 6-9:00a OMD YA church 12:45 Undeck Halls S, FL 7-9 AA FH	<b>7</b> 5-7:00 FinSecs A 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi 7-9 Pagans	<b>8</b> 12:00p Retiree's lunch F	<b>9</b> 12:30-2:30 Library F 7-9 Choir rehearse 7:30-9:30 Board A	<b>10</b> 7-9:00 Finance A 7:30-9 AA	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9-1:30 RE retreat church 6-8 church reserved 8-10:00 concert
<b>13</b> 9-11:00 UU class A p4 11-11:30 Brass rehearse F 12:45-1:45 TED & Pizza F 7-9 AA F	<b>14</b> 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	<b>15</b> 5-7:00 FinSecs A 7-9p OWL F	<b>16</b> 9:30-1:30 Staff mtg. A 6:30-9 Membership F 7-9 Choir rehearse	<b>17</b> 7:30-9 AA	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 1p-12a OWL overnight church
<b>20</b> 12a-9a OWL church 11-11:30 Environment mtg. F 7-9 AA FH	<b>21</b> 5-7:00 FinSecs A 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi 7-9 Pagans F 7-9 Fundraising A	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7-9 Choir rehearse	<b>24</b> 7:30-9 AA	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 11:00 pancakes 12:30 pancakes 12:45 Chat F p6 7-9 AA FH	<b>28</b> 5-7:00 FinSecs A 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	<b>29</b> 7-9:00 OWL F	<b>30</b> 7-9 Choir rehearse	<b>31</b> 7:30-9 AA	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

Tai Chi: 7:00 Advanced, 7:30 Intermediate, 8:00 Beginner - Yoga and Tai Chi are held in Fessenden Hall  
A- Eldredge Annex; F- Fessenden Hall; FL- Founders' Lounge; L- Library; S-Sanctuary; N- Nursery;  
FC- Family and Community Services bldg.

*Calendar does not reflect changes or additions after December 21*

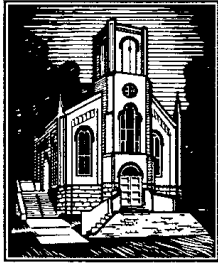
A complete and up-to-date church calendar can be viewed at  
<http://www.localendar.com/public/uukent> or through a link on our website at [www.uukent.org](http://www.uukent.org).



Kay Eckman decorates for Christmas in her own UUnique way.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent  
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