



The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

June 2013

Sunday Services
10:00 and 11:30 am

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Kent, Ohio 44240
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Minister's office hours:

Tuesday - Friday
By appointment

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Office hours:

Mon. through Fri. 9 - 2

Religious Ed. Director:

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DRE's Office Hours:

Tuesday and/or Wednesday
By appointment

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Hal Walker

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Deadline:

The 15th each month

I recently received the WKSU Station Break pamphlet in the mail which includes a listing of some of the many concerts, dance performances, theatre shows and festivals happening in Northeast Ohio this summer. As I read through the descriptions, I made note of the events I want to be sure to get on my own personal calendar. Later that day I was driving to a meeting and noticed a big, electronic billboard advertising season tickets to Cedar Point followed by an old school billboard advertising summer getaways to Michigan's beaches. I was struck once again by how many opportunities there are for play in the summer time. Even if vacation time is limited and we have to fit it in around work, the long summer days give us a little more time to go outside and enjoy the warm weather and the company of family and friends.

When I think of play I think of happiness and, not coincidentally, happiness is the theme for our June worship services. We chose this theme knowing full well that happiness is not a neutral concept. In our theology series that Rev. Christie Anderson and I co-led last fall, we spent a session exploring Hosea Ballou's theology of happiness. Ballou was a 19th century Universalist minister who believed fervently that God made us to be happy. For Ballou, this was a self-evident proposition. He believed that we build societies and create communities because it makes us happy to do so. In doing these things, we learn that we must be honest and cooperative, that we must share power and work for justice for all people. When we do these things we know what love feels like. Further, Ballou said, God is love and we feel God's love best when we are happy. In his theology, the feeling of happiness and the love of God are inextricably linked.

Some people in the class we led questioned Ballou's theology. They pointed out that what he means when he talks about happiness is different from what many people mean today when we talk about happiness. So what is happiness? How do you find happiness? How important is happiness? These are some of the questions we will consider this month as we worship and play together. I hope you will be able to join us!

In faith,

The Times They Are a Changin' . . . Again

Once again this year we will reduce our worship schedule to one service only for the month of July. **Throughout the month of July, our worship services will be held just once at 10am.** When we return to two services each Sunday in August, the first service will be 15 minutes earlier at 9:45 am while the second service will remain at 11:30 am. We made the change to 10:00 and 11:30 am last year to balance the worship attendance between the two services. We have had better balance between our services this year, but we have also found that the half an hour between services has had some unintended negative impacts, especially on parking. In order to once again have 45 minutes between our services but still maintain our hard won balance, **the first service will start at 9:45 am and the second service will be at 11:30 am effective August 4.** Thank you for your understanding!

Upcoming Sermons

26 May

The Angel of the Battlefield

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Justin Czekaj

This Memorial Day weekend we will return again to the story of Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross. Barton devoted her life to tending the needs of soldiers. How are we tending the needs of soldiers and their families today and caring for veterans and their families when they finally return home?

2 June

Happiness is

Religious Education Sunday and Flower Ceremony

This annual multigenerational worship service is the time for our RE program to shine! Join us as each class presents a special learning from this past church year. We will honor our volunteer teachers, award Boy Scouts with the emblem they have earned and bridge our high school seniors into young adulthood. Please bring a cut flower or two or three for the Flower Ceremony.

9 June

Here's to Happiness!

One service @10:00 am

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer, Director of Religious Education Karen Lapidus and Worship Associate Bonnie Harper

Our annual outdoor worship service and picnic will be at Plum Creek Park in Kent (which is at the intersection of Cherry Street and Mogadore Road). We will be meeting at Pavilion #2 for one service only at 10:00 am. Our service will be fully multigenerational; the whole community is invited to worship and play together.

Please bring a lawn chair (and maybe an extra to share), a dish to share at the picnic following the service, your own place setting, any games you would like to play during the picnic and anything else you will need to be comfortable. And remember, we will have **one service only beginning at 10:00 am!**

16 June

That All Should Be Well

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Sophie Smith

Dorothea Dix was a leading Unitarian reformer of the 19th century. She worked for improved conditions in prisons and especially for improved treatment and accommodations for people living with mental illness. This morning we'll look at her work through the lens of Hosea Ballou's theology of happiness and consider what we might learn from both for our own time.

23 June

A Tired Puppy is a Happy Puppy

Kristina Spaude and Worship Associate Lori McGee

My partner has said this phrase dozens of times in the last few years, and it's become a mantra of sorts for me. During this service we are going to use this phrase as a lens through which we can understand sources of happiness and explore how we can invite happiness into our lives. While there is no key to happiness, there are many opportunities for it if we are open to them.

Reading poetry and short prose
at Sandy Eaglin's Light Bites
event in Fessenden Hall.



How Do You Like to Play?

Our summer RE program will be all about play! Each Sunday, our plan is to gather around the chalice, share our joys and concerns and then proceed to play together.

The plan is to explore many different avenues of play throughout the summer. Our goal is to strengthen the community of children and nurture their spirits while having fun together. The RE Committee and I are actively looking for adults and youth to lead the children in whatever play is important to them. Lots of support and staffing will be provided.

Perhaps you like gardening, or science or water play. Perhaps you would like to share some creative fun ~ music or drama or visual arts. Perhaps you would like to share some of the games that you played as a child ~ hopscotch or jacks or jump rope. Perhaps you would like to share your favorite board games with the children. Perhaps cooking is your form of play. The possibilities are endless!

Summer RE will be offered at the first service starting June 16th. In July, we will have just one service, but when we resume two services in August, RE will be at the first service again. Nursery care will be provided at both services throughout the summer. We will meet in Fesenden Hall.

Please let me or any member of the RE Committee ~ Mary Leeson, Michelle Bores, Kat Holtz, Brandon Thoele or Kate Kuemerle ~ know if you are willing to lead a session of play this summer.

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

Working for Human Rights

The new church Human Rights Task Force welcomes volunteers of all ages and backgrounds. The task force will work for human rights in the areas of racial justice, immigrant rights, gender equality, and LGBTQ equality. The group is now collecting signatures on a petition to overturn the constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage in Ohio. The task force is also planning an educational program for fall on the criminal justice system and its impact on African Americans. Church members have been reading and discussing Michele Alexander's book *The New Jim Crow*. The task force plans to work with the Immigrant Worker Project in protecting the rights of immigrants in Ohio. If you have ideas or energy to contribute, please contact Susan Poole, the task force chair.

Jailhouse Rock!

There are still some seats available for this service auction event sponsored by Saunis Parsons and Kathy Kerns. Come for an evening of food and fun at the old Kent jailhouse in Fred Fuller Park. After a casual summer meal, we will listen to Saunis sing songs about crime and punishment and also sing some songs together. This event takes place Friday June 14 at 6PM and costs \$20 a person. Please contact Kathy if you would like to join us!

Social justice in action - Harry and Jan Noden at Earth Day downtown Kent.



Book Reviews

A book of special interest in our church library is Karen Armstrong's, *A History of God: the 4,000 Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*, (New York, Random House, Ballentine Books Edition, 1994). Located in the World Religions category in our collection, this is a book that Rev. Melissa referenced in one of her sermon's this year.

Why does God exist? How have the three dominant monotheistic religions shaped and altered the conception of God? How have these religions influenced each other? In this book Karen Armstrong, one of Britain's most notable commentators on religion, gives the history of how men and women have perceived and experienced God from the time of Abraham to the present.

Martha Kluth.

Here if You Need Me: A True Story, by Kate Braestrup (Boston, Back Bay Books, 2008).

Ten years ago, Kate Braestrup and her husband Drew were enjoying the life they shared together. They had four young children, and Drew, a Maine state trooper, would soon begin training to become a minister as well. Then early one morning Drew left for work and everything changed. On the very roads he protected every day, an oncoming driver lost control, and Kate lost her husband.

Braestrup provides solace, understanding and spiritual guidance when it's needed most. *Here if You Need Me* is the story of Kate Braestrup's remarkable journey from grief to faith to happiness. It is dramatic, funny, deeply moving, and simply unforgettable, an uplifting account about finding God through helping others, and the tale of the small miracles that occur every day when life and love are restored. This book is in the Inspiration category, and may currently be found on top of the Library shelves with the books recommended by Rev. Melissa.

Harry Noden



Saul Flanner
Kat Holtz



Elliott Mercer



Katie Yeagler
Keyaira Fitzgerald



Isabel and Dan Miller

The Easter egg hunt.

Wanted: Director of Religious Education

Southwest UU Church in North Royalton is looking to hire a Director of Religious Education. This is a quarter-time position, starting July 1st. Applications due May 20th for interviews starting in June. Visit www.swuu.org for more details!

Recent Simple Gifts

Claudia Miller, in memory of Tom Myers
Anonymous, in appreciation
Claudia Miller, in memory of her mother,
Marianne Miller

UULTI by the Lake Features Musician Matt Meyer

Unitarian Universalist Leadership Team Institute (UULTI) by the Lake has announced staff and workshop topics for its 2013 event:

UULTI by the Lake
Wednesday, July 31 to Sunday, August 4, 2013
Notre Dame Retreat Center, Canandaigua, NY
Early-bird registration has been extended to May 31, 2013!

Along with UU Musician Matt Meyer (www.RhythmRevelations.com), presenters will include the Rev. Dr. Richard Speck, the Rev. Chris Neilson, the Rev. Douglas Taylor, Samuel Prince, Laura Conkle and UULTI Dean, the Rev. Renee Ruchotzke.

Presenter biographies, program details and registration information may be found at the event website-
<http://www.cerguua.org/cergevents/403-uultilake12.html>
UULTI is a multi-day residential learning experience that seeks to renew and deepen understanding of the call to leadership and to equip individuals and congregational teams with practical tools and powerful ideas that can transform their congregation. It is sponsored by the Central East Regional Group (CERG). UULTI's unique formula balances content and the creativity that comes from the interplay of ideas and experiences. Each participant will be able to select a variety of workshops topics (TRACKS). We then weave in specific leadership elements and perspectives (LENSES).

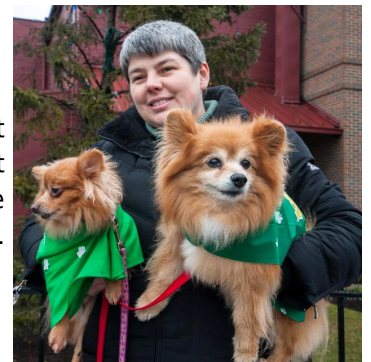
Note: A second UULTI is offered later in the summer—presenter and workshop information will be available soon:

UULTI on Hudson
Wednesday, August 14 to Sunday, August 18, 2013
Stony Point Center, Stony Point, NY

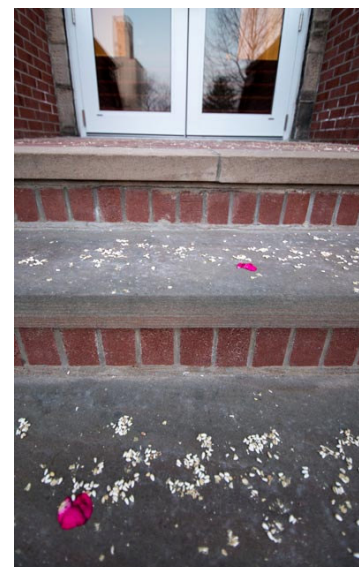
For more information visit <http://www.cerguua.org/uulti/>



Carolyn Arnold reads at Merle Mollenkopf's memorial service.



Sandy Bowers brought some friends to Saint Pets' Day at Home Savings Plaza.



Another couple starts their life together at our church.



Halloween at church with Lila Goering and Kristofer Gargoline.

A Message to Our Moderator

The Board of Trustees and I, as incoming Moderator, honor and sincerely thank Kathie Slater for her tireless work and dedication our growing congregation. Over the past 2 years as Asst. Moderator and Moderator, Kathie has led us into the wonderful and (sometimes) chaotic world of facility expansion with a property purchase, a second in hopes, and untold hours of behind the scenes negotiating and conferences with lawyers, architects and contractors. It has not been easy and has not moved anywhere near as quickly as she would have liked. But Kathie is determined and tenacious; what is worth doing on behalf of our beloved community is worth doing right. Due to Kathie's leadership and very hard work, we are moving forward toward our vision. As Kathie transitions into her role as Chair of the Leadership Development Team, please take a moment to thank her for her commitment to our congregation and her embodiment of our mission ~ Inspire. Serve. Grow.

Blessings, *Elaine Bowen* on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Asst. Moderator 2012-2013

Moderator 2013-2014



Ted Voneida as Steven Wright at "Your Treasure Chest of Humor" night.

Book Group

The Patricia Pownall UU Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, June 11 at 7 pm in the home of Bonnie Harper at 1721 Rugg Street in Kent. This month we are reading a biography of your choice. Next month we will be reading *Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the After-life* by Eben Alexander. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper. All are welcome.



Tarnished Brass at the Easter Service



Facilitation Skills 101

Tuesday, June 4 from 7 to 9 pm
Fessenden Hall

Have you ever thought about offering an adult religious exploration experience at the church? Have you ever considered the possibility of becoming a Chalice Group or Food for Thought facilitator? Are you a new committee chair with responsibility for leading meetings? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you are invited to join me for an introduction to facilitation skills on Tuesday evening, June 4. This will be a general introduction to facilitation and the skills you learn will be applicable in any context including in your workplace or other community organizations.

June Church Events

26 11:30 Pancakes 12:30 Pancakes part deux 12:45-2:15 Radiolab <i>F</i> 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	27 5-7:00 FinSecs A 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	28	29 7-9 Choir rehearse	30 7-9 Annual Mtg.; church reserved 7:30-9 AA	31	1 9:30-3:30 Retreat A 11-1:00 Sanctuary re- served
2 12:30-1:30 Annual mtg. <i>S</i> 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	3 5-7:00 FinSecs A 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	4 10-11 staff mtg. A 7-9 Facilitation class <i>F</i>	5 6:30-8:30 RE A 7-9 Choir rehearse	6 5:30-7 RE A 7-8:30 Singalong <i>F</i> 7:30-9 AA 7:30-9 Care team A	7	8 11a-5:30 Prefect orien- tation <i>F</i>
9 10-11 Service in Park 7-9 AA <i>F</i>	10 5-7:00 FinSecs A 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	11 12p Retiree's lunch	12 7-9 Choir rehearse	13 Hogwarts 7-9:30 BYOT A 7:30-9 AA	14 Hogwarts	15 Hogwarts
16 1-2:30 Men's Group <i>S</i> 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	17 5-7:00 FinSecs A 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi 7-9 Fundraising <i>F</i>	18	19 6:30-9 Membership <i>F</i> 7:30-9:30 Board A	20 7:30-9 AA	21	22
23 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	24 5-7:00 FinSecs A 5:30-6:30 Tai Chi	25	26	27 7-9:30 BYOT A 7:30-9 AA	28	29
30 11:30 Pancakes 12:30 Pancakes part deux 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	1 5-7:00 FinSecs A	2	3	4 7:30-9 AA	5	6

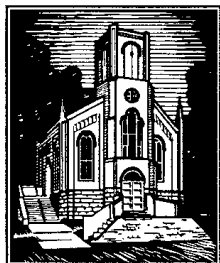
Tai Chi: 7:00 Advanced, 7:30 Intermediate, 8:00 Beginner - Yoga and Tai Chi are held in Fessenden Hall
A- Eldredge Annex; *F*- Fessenden Hall; *FL*- Founders' Lounge; *L*- Library; *S*-Sanctuary; *N*- Nursery;
FC– Family and Community Services bldg.

Calendar does not reflect changes or additions after May 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.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent
228 Gougler Ave.
Kent, OH 44240



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