



Monthly Musings from Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer

One of the things I love best about our congregation is how people care for one another. I have been witness to so many acts of kindness over my years with the congregation. This happens, of course, between people who have become friends in so many lovely ways. It doesn't stop there, though. The spirit of kindness is wide and inclusive. Take as just one example a certain someone who has delighted in being an anonymous Christmas elf these last few years. This person has asked me to surprise some other people for whom cash flow is sometimes a little tight with a monetary gift just before Christmas. It has been a joy for me to be the messenger in that gesture of generosity. I could give you lots of other examples of rides given, meals prepared, dogs walked, cats cared for, furniture moved, walks taken, listening offered and more.

A great deal of this caring happens organically between people in relationship. Some of it happens in a more organized way through the members of our Care Team. Our Care Team members are members and friends of the congregation who want to be sure that our

web of care includes all who need that support. However, we can only offer care to those whom we know are in need of support. If that ever includes you, we hope you won't hesitate to reach out.

One of the things we have puzzled over in these last several years is how to reach back to those whose names are mentioned in the Embracing Meditation time during our services. This has been tricky because we know some people speak the names of others in the spirit of prayer, not wanting or needing follow up. Others speak names of people who might appreciate a caring contact or because they might appreciate follow up themselves. It has been difficult for us to distinguish between the two. We have experimented with taking notes about what people say so that we can follow up with cards and calls. We've also experimented with having a Joys, Sorrows and Milestones book for people to write in for the same reason. Neither of these has seemed to be exactly the right thing for our community.

So, in the spirit of experimentation, we have another idea. Beginning on February 9 and continuing for

Sunday Services

9:45 and 11:30 am

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By appointment

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The 20th each month



several Sundays, we are going to experiment with a card signing station during coffee hour and after the second service. The table will be staffed by a member of our Care Team who will have an assortment of cards available. If there is someone on your mind at church who you think might appreciate a card, we encourage you to come by the card signing table and request that a card be started for that person. The Care Team members will provide an appropriate card and you can write the inscription. For example, you might write, "Dear Hazel, I just learned of your uncle's death and am so sorry for your loss. We are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers." Other folks who visit the card table that morning will then have an opportunity to sign the card you started.

On any given Sunday, we imagine a few different cards will be started for members and friends of the congregation. We hope that people will make it a habit to stop by the card table to see who cards have been started for that Sunday and add their own signature and/or note. The cards will remain available after the second service and then we will mail them out on Mondays. The idea behind the cards is to provide another way to widen the net of care and concern amongst members and friends of our congregation. If you have any feedback on our experiment, please do let us know.

Peace,

UPCOMING SERVICES

9:45 and 11:30 am

February 2 - Music Sunday: Together

*Hal Walker, Music Director
and Worship Associate Christie Anderson*

Come celebrate through music and words the power of being "Together". The service will feature personal reflections, singing, instrumental performance and a surprise to highlight ways in which our talents are enhanced by working together.

February 9 - Because We Can

Carol Thomas Cissel, Resident Minister at All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa, OK and Worship Associate Bonnie Harper

One of life's salient questions is this, "Why should I help others?" The simple, quick answer is that we help because it is the right thing to do. But, we are not a simple people. There are deeper reasons why we care for others. Join us this morning to talk about the beauty of giving, that unknown thing which drives us to work towards justice and the call to help **Because We Can**.

February 16 - Harmony is . . .

*Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer
and Worship Associate Justin Czekaj*

What is harmony? How do we find it, create it or sustain it? This morning we will explore this often sought but sometimes elusive goal.

February 23 - Harmony at What Cost?

*Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer,
and Worship Associate Mary Lou Holly*

Is there a shadow side to the pursuit of harmony? Are there times when seeking harmony isn't necessarily the best goal? Come join us as we continue our exploration of what harmony is and is not.

Important Dates to Note

March 28th, District Assembly

District Assembly 2014 will take place at the Avalon Hotel and Conference Center, Erie, PA March 28-29, 2014 with the Rev. Meg Barnhouse as the keynote speaker. Regionalization will undoubtedly be a topic of discussion. Put this date on your calendar, you won't want to miss it!

July 13th - 19th, Summer Institute

It's never too early to start planning. Summer Institute, a family friendly Unitarian Universalist camp of more than 500 UUs from around the district and beyond, will take place on July 13-19, 2014 at Oberlin College. Theme: The Power of the Vocal Community with Dr. Ysaye Barnwell (formerly of Sweet Honey in the Rock)



RE Teachers' and Youth Group Advisors' Annual Winter Retreat

from Karen Lapidus

A few years ago, the RE Committee began hosting a retreat for all of our volunteer teaching staff. It was created to be an opportunity at the turn of the calendar year to pamper the teachers with a delicious brunch and to offer a program that would nurture their spiritual development.

Community-building and worship are essential elements. It has evolved into a lovely event that many people look forward to. I consider it a highlight of our year.

This year's program focused on Howard

Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences. Gardner is a developmental psychologist who understands that we learn and process information in a number of ways, rather than just verbally or mathematically, as intelligence is typically measured. He proposes that we are "smart" in eight different ways:

Musically	Visually
Verbally	Logically
Bodily	Naturalistically
Interpersonally	Intrapersonally

Realizing that the children and youth of the church learn in these eight ways and that our programs are already set up to teach to these eight ways of learning, we decided to take a closer look at each intelligence.

We set up six stations around the church and asked the teachers to visit as many as they cared to in the allotted time. Members of the RE Committee ~ Mary Leeson, Kat Holtz, Michelle Bores, Cheryl Spoehr, Jo Fatchet and Colleen Thoele ~ staffed the stations.

At the music station, we sang a cappella. Selections were UU hymns and traditional folk songs.

At the verbal station, the teachers wrote poetry. They created haiku, acrostic poetry and other forms.

At the bodily station, Lisa Thiel led the teachers in some simple yoga poses.

At the interpersonal station, the teachers interviewed each other about their experiences teaching religious education.

At the visual station, the teachers created sculptures from glitter-clay.

At the nature station, teachers went outside and considered how children learn through nature.

Working on their classroom schedules at the end of the retreat was considered the "logic station". We spoke about how the overarching goal of our RE program is helping our children and youth learn the skills to live lives of meaning and purpose and considered this to be how we addressed the intrapersonal intelligence.

At our closing worship, we asked the RE Teachers and Youth Group Advisors to reflect upon what was particularly meaningful to them. People spoke about how some of the activities at the stations were easy and some were more challenging and that they were drawn to some activities and uninterested in others. It gave us all good insight to how we connect with our children and youth considering the multiple intelligences that they bring to the classroom. It was a lovely morning. And, it is just one more (of many) perks to teaching in our program of religious education!

In faith and with love,

Karen Lapidus
Director of Religious Education



What We Choose:

Ethics for Unitarian Universalists

We are regularly faced with moral choices, big and small. How should we respond to a tricky family or relationship situation? What is the right thing to do when faced with a dilemma at work? What is the most ethical course for a community, state, or nation to follow, and how much are we prepared to invest in advocating for that course? How should morality or ethics enter our consumer decisions? How do we treat others? How can we follow the values of our Unitarian Universalist faith tradition?

Rev. Melissa will lead this course using curricula from the Unitarian Universalist Association's Tapestry of Faith resources. The course will meet from 7-9 pm on the following Thursdays in Fessenden Hall: 2/13, 2/20, 2/27, 3/6, 3/20, 4/3 and 4/10. Participants will be invited to consider frameworks from various schools of ethical thought. Those who attend regularly will derive the most benefit, but each session can stand on its own for those who prefer to drop in.

Movement Building for Beloved Community: 2014 Allies for Racial Equity Conference

The annual conference offers Unitarian Universalists who identify as white the opportunity to develop their anti-racist, anti-oppressive analysis and practice. Whether this will be your first or fifteenth anti-racist conference, there will be opportunities to learn, grow & explore how you can turn your commitment into action.

We are also excited to share the space and some programming with attendees at a concurrent People of Color conference themed: "Why Do People of Color Want to Be UUs."

March 14-15 at West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church in Rocky River, OH
Detailed information and registration at alliesforracialequity.wildapricot.org

New UU Classes in February



Our New UU classes cover everything you wanted to know about the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent in particular and Unitarian Universalism in general, but were afraid to ask.

Well, maybe not everything, but we try to give you an overview, a starting point. Some history of both, some organizational details. Come join the conversation. And, if you're curious about membership, this is the place to be.

Part 1 will be on Sunday, February 9, from 9-11 am.

Part 2 will be on Sunday, February 16, from 9-11 am. You may attend one or both, although attendance at both is encouraged. Different topics will be covered in each. We will gather at the Annex, the yellow house next to the church.

If you have any questions, contact Claudia Miller or Marion Yeagler.



Caroline Arnold Honored

For many years, Caroline Arnold has been a devoted supporter of the safety net in our community. In recognition of her long tenured service, the Kent Social Services Advisory Board presented Caroline with a commendation and a plaque, naming the dining room in her honor. Caroline has long encouraged our congregation's support and involvement with Kent Social Service and Family and Community Services and we celebrate her recognition. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

Resolution Recognizing Contributions of Caroline Arnold

Whereas Caroline Arnold has served on the Advisory Board of Kent Social Services for over 20 years, and

Whereas, Caroline provided leadership in ensuring a smooth and successful merger of Kent Social Services with Family & Community Services, Inc. thereby enhancing and strengthening Kent Social Services programs, and

Whereas, Caroline then served as an active member of the governance Board of F&CS, taking on the added responsibility of serving as the Performance Quality Improvement (PQI) liaison which entailed monthly site visits and reporting,

Now, therefore be it resolved that the members of the KSS Advisory Board, the leadership of Family & Community Services Inc., and the staff of Kent Social Services hereby recognize Caroline Arnold for sharing her valuable time and talents in dedication to the growth and effectiveness of both Kent Social Services and Family & Community Services, and

Furthermore, declare that the dining area of the Kent Social Services facility is hereby named the "Caroline Arnold Dining Room" as a lasting tribute honoring Caroline's tireless dedication to the enhancement of the quality of life for countless vulnerable members of our community. Caroline Arnold will long be remembered for her unwavering efforts to highlight injustice and inequality and as a persistent voice reminding us that we can indeed create a better world.

Adopted by the Advisory Board of Kent Social Services,

January 8, 2014



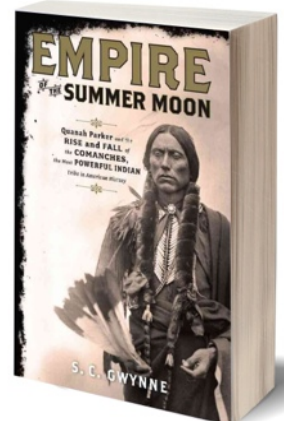
Literary Liner Notes

Empire of the Summer Moon

The Patricia Pownall UU Book Group will be meeting on Tuesday, February 11 at 7 pm at the home of Kathy Kerns. This month we are reading *Empire of the Summer Moon* by S.C. Gwynne.

Empire of the Summer Moon spans two astonishing stories. The first traces the rise and fall of the Comanches, the most powerful Indian tribe in American history. The second entails one of the most remarkable narratives ever to come out of the Old West: the epic saga of the pioneer woman Cynthia Ann Parker and her mixed-blood son Quanah, who became the last and greatest chief of the Comanches.

In March we will be reading *The Signature of All Things* by Elizabeth Gilbert. If you have any questions you may contact Bonnie Harper. All are welcome.



Simple Gifts received...

Marion Yeagler

In celebration of Rylan Carvill-Ziemer

Amy & Chris Edmonds

no dedication

Kathie & Joel Slater

in memory of Arthur Wheeler
and Lloyd Mills

Anonymous

in memory of Arthur Wheeler

Our Simple Gifts program is designed to encourage everyday giving. If members and friends of the congregation continue to remember the church with regular gifts, we will be well on our way to building the kind of endowment that can help ensure our congregation's continuing health and vitality.

No gift is too small or too large. Donations can be made in celebration, in honor of someone or something, in appreciation or to note a special occasion. If you would like to participate, the blue Simple Gift envelopes can be found in the pews; please include your dedication and name so we can provide you with a donation credit. Thank you.

Words to Live By...

This is my simple religion.
There is no need for temples;
no need for complicated
philosophy. Our own brain,
our own heart is our temple;
the philosophy is kindness.

--Dalai Lama

Ohio Meadville District News

A Spirited Life: District Assembly 2014

The OMD/SLD District Assembly will be held at the Avalon Hotel in Erie, PA on March 28-29, 2014 with the Rev. meg Barnhouse as our keynote speaker. Registration is now open and all details are available on the website.

Visit www.ohiomeadville.org/program/da for details and links.

Stewardship: The Next Generation

This workshop will be presented at the UU Fellowship of Wayne County in Wooster, OH on March 8, 2014. Come learn how to bridge the gaps from generation to generation in stewardship appeals and re-envision a way to fund a vibrant, mission oriented faith. Details and registration are available at the OMD website.

www.ohiomeadville.org/omdevents/566-stewardship2014

Interested in Multicultural Congregations?

OMD Growing in Racial and Cultural Equity Team is seeking people interested in helping organize cluster conversations. We're looking for ways to support each other in developing and exploring transformational strategies for building intentionally multicultural UU congregations. We're also seeking people of color interested in a spring gathering of UU's of color. Contact Evin Carvill-Ziemer at eziemer@uua.org or Samuel Prince at sprince@coloursofliving.com to get involved.

CERG Webinars

Monthly Webinars on a variety of topics are available from CERG staff. Upcoming topics include *The Price of Renewal: Why Dying and Rebirth are Essential Components of Growth*, *Meaningful Multigenerational Worship*, *Happiness as a Spiritual Practice*, *Ministry to Families: Supporting Families in Good Times and in Bad*. Check the CERG website for topics and schedule at www.cerguua.org/events/cergwebinars.html



For a complete and up-to-date church calendar, please visit www.localendar.com/public/uukent. If you are unable to access our electronic calendar, please contact the church office and we will gladly provide you with a paper copy.

