



# The Chaice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

July 2006

**Sunday Services**  
10:30 am (summer)

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**Minister:**  
Rev. Melissa Ziemer

**Minister's office hours:**  
Tuesday - Friday  
By appointment

**Office Manager:**  
Judy Brannan  
**Office hours:**  
Mon. Wed. Thurs. 9 - 1  
Tues. 9 - 11  
Fri. 8:30 - 1:30

**Religious Education Director:**  
Michelle Culley

**Music Director:**  
Hal Walker



**Newsletter editor:**  
Brad Bolton

**Deadline:**  
The 15th each month

When I was little my mom would sometimes let us play "get lost." The game worked like this. At each stop light my sister and I got to take turns telling my mom which way she should go – left, right or straight ahead. I considered "get lost" to be a grand adventure. With nowhere in particular to be and a city full of streets before us, we were explorers! The best part about "get lost" was that it invariably took us to some heretofore undiscovered treasure – a new park with a great slide or an ice cream stand to which we'd never been. It never occurred to me that my mom knew very well where we were. My five-year-old self imagined us getting more and more lost with each spontaneous turn. That was, of course, until we ended up at the great new park. Then, we weren't lost anymore. We had found a new place for fun.

As an adult I get lost with regularity. It turns out that my sense of direction is lousy. If I haven't been there before, chances are good I'll get lost on my first (and second and third) attempts to navigate a new route. This makes living in a new place difficult. I can't tell you how many times I have ended up in Brimfield this year when I was trying to go to Ravenna! So, I was not surprised by my inability to locate the house I was headed to in Bath last week. Nor was I surprised a few days later when in trying to get to Cleveland I found myself in Mentor. I was, however, extremely frustrated. Knowing that I am prone to get lost doesn't make me any more patient with my frequent forays in the wrong direction.

As soon as I could I turned around to head the other way on rte. 90. In short order I noticed the sign for the Holden Arboretum. I didn't have time to stop, but I wish I had. It would have been a new twist on my old game. Trying to get to Cleveland, I might have ended up instead at some lovely new place I've never been . . . I was glad for this flash of insight. It is annoying to get lost when trying to make it someplace on time. But when there is no worry about the clock, getting lost can be fun. Whether on foot, by bike or in a car, being lost holds great possibility for new discovery.

This summer, I commend to you the pleasure of new discovery. Perhaps you'll find it in a book that is outside the realm of your usual preferred genre. Perhaps you'll find it in a conversation with a stranger or in an activity you've never before tried. Perhaps you'll find it in a new interest in birds or trees or the formations of clouds. Or perhaps, on a day when you have nowhere in particular to be, you'll head out down some unfamiliar roads to see what adventure you might find. Whatever the shape of your new discoveries this summer, may they fill you with the joy of exploration!

*Melissa*

### July Sermons

- July 9                      Inspiration!                      Rev. Melissa Ziemer  
In late June I will be attending the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly, which is an annual gathering of congregations. There I know that I will be stimulated and inspired. In this service I will share with you some of that inspiration.
- July 16                      The One Who Isn't Busy                      Dean Williams, visiting Buddhist priest
- July 23                      African Spirituality                      Susan and Mac Goekler  
Experiencing village life and villagers' spiritual practices provides insights into community that are universal and might provide ideas for strengthening our own church community.
- July 30                      Humor Sunday                      Cari Orris  
Come share a laugh with me. This service explores the role that humor and laughter can play in a person's spiritual life.

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### The Minister's Summer Schedule

I will be on vacation from July 16 through August 5. In my absence, requests for meals or rides should be directed to our Co-Coordinator's for Pastoral Care, Linda and Rod Mishler at      . If you have an urgent concern which requires pastoral care or counseling that cannot wait until I return, please contact Renee Zimelis Ruchotzke at      . Renee is a student minister in candidacy with the Unitarian Universalist Association and is sponsored by our congregation. Renee has agreed to serve as on call minister for the church in case of emergency such as fires, deaths, trauma, life-threatening illness and significant personal crises while I am on vacation. (Hopefully no one among us will encounter such tragedy)!

From August 6 through August 23 I will be on Study Leave. While I will be in town, I will mostly be working at home and unavailable for meetings or routine church business. This is a chance for me to read, write, reflect and prepare for the upcoming church year. During this time, should you need help with meals or rides, please contact our Co-Coordinator's for Pastoral Care whose numbers are listed above. Should you have an urgent concern, you will be able to reach me on my cell phone at      . I will check my cell phone regularly and will promptly respond to urgent concerns and emergencies.

### September Ingathering Service

Whether it be for a weekend or a week, in our own backyards or halfway across the world, summer (hopefully) brings us time to relax. This summer please consider collecting a small (film container size) sample of water and/or soil from a place that has meaning for you. It may be a place of beauty and rest or a place where you know satisfaction and a sense accomplishment. Maybe it will be a place that moves you to wonder or a place where you delight in joy. Wherever it is that life takes you this summer, consider collecting a small sample from that place to share with the church during our Ingathering Service in September. And until then, have a great summer!

### Why Is my Newsletter Late?

We've all seen the swift little demons that run in and out of our computers. Not the dull kitchen lizards of fall, but the green snake-like things with the shiny plates that get in through the fan vents. Because they are so common, I usually don't notice them slithering about. I did happen to notice one, however, because of the tiny screwdriver in its teeth. Before I could catch the slippery slitherer, my computer did a flip, landed on its back, and croaked. I won't bore you with the details - you all know what these guys can do.

*Your fearless editor*

### Among Ourselves

One of Vivien Sandlund's former students, Nicky Pantaleano was found murdered in her apartment. Her husband has been charged with her murder. Please say a prayer for Nicky's family and friends and for all who suffer from the violence of those who claim to love them.

Congratulations to Emily Holmes and John Hejdkuk who were married in our sanctuary on June 3 and to Amy Williams and Andrew Cruise, also married June 3 in a ceremony at Blossom. Both weddings were lovely and joyful occasions.

Saul Flanner and Kathy Walker were out of town one Sunday in mid June because they were in Kansas throwing a party to celebrate the joyous occasion of Saul's parents 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary!

And our well wishes to Linda Beale who is recovering from a bout of pneumonia and to Clinton Hobbes who fell and hit his head in June. Clinton is doing okay and says that if nothing else, hitting his head it is an interesting conversation topic!

*If you would like to submit an item to be included in next month's Among Ourselves column, please contact our minister, Melissa Ziemer.*

### Picnic Thoughts

A good time was had by the eighty or so who attended the Church Picnic on June 11 at Plum Creek Park. Special thanks go out to Elaine Bowen and Kelley Plishka, who made the arrangements and had the grill fired up. Combined with a potluck of side dishes, we ate like royalty. Becky Haines had the youngsters entertained with parachute games, while our Youth Group entertained us all with their tie-dying, which also raised \$250 for Katrina victims. Some of our musicians also entertained, and we had a wonderful sing-a-long. I can hardly wait for the fall picnic, which will be held on August 27!

*Jim Scott - Trustee for Fellowship*

### A-camping UU Will go Update

The group camp signup is full! There is no more availability to group camp with the church group on August 4-6 at West Branch State Park. If you were interested in this but did not sign up, you may still reserve a campsite on your own at the park. Call to make reservations. Or plan on coming out to "marsh some mallows" by the campfire on Saturday August 5. More on that later. For more info, contact Kelley Plishka.

### Fresh Flower Fundraiser

I am offering fresh bouquets of flowers from my gardens this summer in exchange for a donation to our church. Tell me what you'd like to spend, I'll tell you what's blooming, and together we will design your bouquet. I can have it at church on the Sunday you chose, or ready for pick-up at my house at any other time, depending on your special occasion or gift needs. These bouquets are by advance order only. Please call for more info, Paulette Thurman, . Your vase or mine.

#### Celtic Clan

7/3/06 7:30 Practice  
 7/10/06 No practice  
 7/17/06 7PM Brookside Senior Assisted Living  
 7/24/06 7:30 Practice  
 7/31/06 7 PM Essex at Tallmadge

### New Coordinators for Pastoral Care

For the past church year, Colleen Norris served us as our Pastoral Care Coordinator, and did a remarkable job. Colleen has some other commitments at this time, and has "passed the torch". Thank you for kind and loving efforts the past year, Colleen.

Rod and Linda Mishler are now acting as Co-Coordinators for Pastoral Care. The Mishlers started coming to our church in late 2004, and became members in January, 2006. They have quickly become very active members of our church community – Rod sings in the choir, and Linda has served as a worship associate, and serves on both the membership committee and the personnel committee.

Linda told me, "We are pretty much life-long residents of Portage County, except for a brief stint in South Carolina. We reside in Ravenna, Rod is a CPA and Linda owns a housecleaning business. We are "empty nesters," although our nest doesn't seem empty at all. We have 3 children, Amy (in Columbus), Sam (here in Kent), and Abby (in Atlanta), and one grandchild, Macy. All of the kids are married, graduated from college and working - none have returned home (yet) for which we are most grateful. We will be celebrating our 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this fall. We find the Unitarian Universalist "journey" to be very stimulating, educational, spiritual, open, free, loving and welcoming. We have to be careful not to become evangelical UU's!"

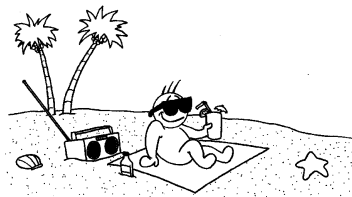
Welcome, Rod and Linda!

*Jim Scott, Trustee for Fellowship*

#### Out to Lunch Bunch

We extend an open invitation to anyone who would like to join others for lunch - Dutch treat - after church on Sundays. The schedule of where we will meet follows - changes will be announced in the Thread.

July 2	China City
July 9	El Campesino
July 16	China City
July 23	El Campesino
July 30	China City



### Pagan Spirituality Group Forming

Do you identify Paganism or Earth - centered beliefs as a part of your UU spirituality? Maybe you're just curious? Then perhaps CUUPS is the place for you. CUUPS stands for the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans. It exists to help network, educate, and provide resources for Pagan identified Unitarian Universalists.

CUUPS was founded in 1987 as an Independent Affiliate of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. There are local chapters in close to seventy congregations. CUUPS has a presence at General Assembly as well as other camps and conferences. At both the local and international level, CUUPS is firmly guided by the Principles of the UUA.

A local CUUPS chapter can provide a place for study, sharing experiences, worship and outreach, so come out of your "broom closet" and join us on Thursday, July 20, at 7:00 p.m. at the church as we begin the process of starting our very own CUUPS group. As part of our introduction to the congregation, some of us will help Rev. Ziemer plan a service. See details below. Any questions please email Beth Straubhaar at

*Beth Straubhaar*

### More on CUUPS from our Minister

Interested in joining CUUPS, do you like intergenerational ritual? Then I have an opportunity for you! I would like to convene a small group of CUUPS members to help plan and lead whole church celebrations for the Fall and Spring Equinoxes and the Winter and Summer Solstices. I am envisioning outdoor celebrations that are participatory, spiritually grounded in earth centered beliefs and family friendly. There is lots of room here to help create new traditions at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent. If you are interested, please contact the Rev. Melissa Ziemer for more information.

*Melissa Ziemer*

### Book Club

The July meeting will be July 18 at 7 pm. We skip our regular date due to Summer Institute. We will meet at Kathie Slater's, . The book will be Freakonomics by Steven Levitt. This book explores the hidden side of everything --by a rogue economist.

We will meet August 8 at 7 pm at Betty Kendrick's, . We are each going to share something we have read relating to our summer activities or trips.

The location of the meeting on September 12 at 7 pm will be announced. The book will be Saturday by Ian McEwan.

*Martha Kluth*

### Poverty in Portage County - a Statistical Portrait

If being a member of the Social Justice Committee and heading up the 140th Anniversary Task Force has taught me anything, it's that our Universalist founders very much had in mind that the main mission of our church should be that of universal justice and compassion. Members and friends of this church have stood witness for those values for the past 140 years, and our founders call out to us from the past to continue the work that, by their passing, they left unfinished.

One of the more eye opening things that I have learned recently as a result of my work with the Social Justice Committee is how pervasive poverty is right here in our own Portage County. It's shocking to find out this sort of thing, as most of those who experience poverty are, to us, largely invisible, but very much a part of the fabric of our own community. Here are a few statistics to point out just how bad poverty is in our own county:

Of the 150,000 residents of Portage County, approximately 50,000, or fully a third of our residents, are in regular need of social service assistance, such as food, clothing and housing.

- A quarter of the residents of Kent alone live below the poverty level.
- In Portage County, there are over 16,000 children who live in conditions over 200% below the poverty level.
- Portage County has the ninth highest housing cost in the State of Ohio.
- Portage County has the 2nd highest number of residents living in trailers in the State of Ohio.

These kinds of statistics are shocking to someone like me who is a lifelong Portage County resident. It's a bit staggering to realize how bad poverty is here in our own backyard, but we need not feel helpless to do something about it. You can volunteer at any number of social service agencies around the area that provide assistance to those in poverty conditions. And as a member of its Steering Committee, I would like to offer this invitation to you to come and join our church's very vibrant and active Social Justice Committee. Together, we can do great things and do our part to combat poverty in our own area.

Consider helping to carry the torch forward lit by our Universalist founders to continue the work of universal compassion and justice that they left unfinished. If you would like more information about our Social Justice Committee, see me, Vivien Sandlund, Caroline Arnold, Ted and Swanny Voneida, Saunis Parsons or any of the other members of our committee during a regular church service, or feel free to call or e-mail any of us. Our contact information may be found in the church directory.

*Sally Burnell, Social Justice Committee*

## Parents Need Help Feeding Children

It's not "the good old summertime" for many families in Portage County. When school is out, there are many more mouths to feed at home - no subsidized school breakfast or lunch!!!

Please donate to the Kent Social Services food baskets: there is an oval natural wicker basket on the first floor near the elevator and a blue wicker basket with handle on the 2nd floor just outside the sanctuary. Let's fill them to overflowing with family friendly foods ~ peanut butter, canned fish & meat, cereal, crackers, canned fruit and veggies, 100% fruit juice, meal mixes, "meal-in-a-can" items, pasta, rice ~ any non-perishable items are welcome. No glass containers, please.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

*Elaine Bowen*

## Sunday Program Committee Meeting

Our quarterly Sunday Program Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, July 6 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the Eldredge Annex. We will be working with our minister to plan the worship schedule for the fall. If you have a suggestion for a lay led service, if your group would like to lead a service or if you would like to join us, please contact Elaine Bowen at by the upcoming holiday weekend.

*Elaine Bowen*

### Yoga Schedule at Church

Sundays - Heidi/Barb  
5-6:30 pm - beginner/moderate yoga

Mondays - Heidi Shaffer  
10:15 - 11:45 am - gentle yoga  
5:15-6:45 pm - gentle yoga

Tuesdays - Margot Milcetic  
5:15-6:45 pm - moderate yoga  
7-9 pm -challenging yoga

Wednesdays - Heidi  
9:30-11 am - moderate yoga

Thursdays - Heidi/Megan  
4:15-5:45 pm - gentle/moderate yoga  
6-7:30 pm - moderate yoga

## Summer Time is Planning Time

The multiage Dr. Suess summer program is well on its way. With the help of guest teachers, the kids will be treated to some well known silly tales from a Unitarian Universalist point of view.

My focus and energy now shifts to the coming fall. We will return to the age-divided structure for our Sunday school. The current Religious Education Committee has selected the class programs that will be used for the 2006-2007 school year.

Preschoolers, kids age 3-5, will be using the UUA program titled Chalice Children. This program emphasizes the relationship between a child's direct experience and spiritual development. In this program, children will learn that church is a special place with special people where we all celebrate together. They will also learn that church is a place where we wonder about our world and where we make friends to help us on the journey.

Kindergarteners and first graders will be searching for meaning in life with a favorite UUA program called Treasure Hunting. Every week children will make or receive an object that is symbolic of that week's principle to place in their treasure chest. Similarly every week, an object goes into the class treasure chest. Children will discover "treasures" in all sorts of places and in all sorts of ways.

Our second and third graders will be spending a lot of time outside next school year as they explore Experiences with The Web of Life. This truly hands on curriculum encourages children to see the interconnectedness of all creatures and living things.

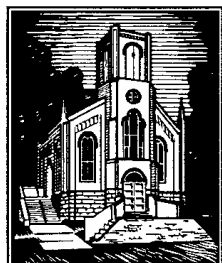
It will be a Stepping Stone year for the fourth and fifth graders. This UUA program draws upon science, myth, UU traditions, spiritual and secular resources to invite children to take steps toward forming their own religious identities and concepts. A highlight of this program is the end of the year intergenerational celebration where children are awarded "stepping stones."

It's going to be a fantastic year—one you won't want to miss. Be sure to register for the fall program. Registration forms will be available at church every Sunday, or you can download a registration form directly from the church website [www.kentuu.org](http://www.kentuu.org).

Peace,  
Michelle Culley  
Director of Religious Education  
[dre-uukent@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dre-uukent@sbcglobal.net)



Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent  
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### July Calendar

- |        |                                  |         |                                     |         |                                 |
|--------|----------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Sat  | (possible wedding)               | 12 Wed  | 7-9 pm- BYOT- <i>FL</i>             | 23 Sun  | 5:00-6:30- Yoga                 |
| 2 Sun  | 5:00-6:30 pm- Yoga               | 13 Thur | 4:15 pm- Yoga                       | 24 Mon  | 10:15 am Gentle Yoga            |
| 3 Mon  | 10:15 am- Gentle Yoga            |         | 6:15 pm- Yoga                       |         | 5:15 pm- Gentle Yoga            |
|        | 5:15 pm- Gentle Yoga             | 16 Sun  | Social Justice Comm.- <i>F</i>      |         | 7:00 Tai chi                    |
|        | 7:30 Celtic Clan Practice        |         | 5:00-6:30 pm- Yoga                  |         | 7:30 Celtic Clan Practice       |
| 5 Wed  | 9:30 am- Yoga                    | 17 Mon  | 10:15 am- Gentle Yoga               | 25 Tues | 5:15 Moderate Yoga              |
|        | 7-9 pm- BYOT- <i>FL</i>          |         | 5:15 pm- Gentle Yoga                |         | 7:00 Challenging Yoga           |
| 6 Thu  | 4:15 pm- Yoga                    |         | 7:00 Tai chi                        | 26 Wed  | 9:30 am- Yoga                   |
|        | 6:15 pm- Yoga                    |         | 7:00 Celtic Clan @ Brookside        |         | 7-9 pm- BYOT- <i>FL</i>         |
|        | 7-9 pm- Sunday Program           |         | Senior Assisted Living              | 27 Thur | 4:15 pm- Yoga                   |
|        | Committee- <i>EA</i>             | 18 Tue  | 7:00 Book Group @ Slater's          |         | 6:15 pm- Yoga                   |
| 8 Sat  | 3-5 pm- Eldridge upstairs in use |         | 5:15 Moderate Yoga                  |         | 7:30- Choir rehearsal- <i>S</i> |
| 9 Sun  | Summer Institute week : o)       |         | 7:00 Challenging Yoga               | 29 Sat  | 10 am-3 pm- Summer Walden       |
|        | 5:00-6:30 pm- Yoga               | 19 Wed  | 9:30 am- Yoga                       |         | (Plum Creek)                    |
| 10 Mon | 10:15 am- Gentle Yoga            |         | 7-9 pm- BYOT- <i>FL</i>             | 30 Sun  | 5:00-6:30- Yoga                 |
|        | 5:15 pm- Gentle Yoga             |         | (7:00) 7:30 pm- Board Meets-        | 31 Mon  | 10:15 am- Gentle Yoga           |
|        | 7:00 Tai chi                     |         | <i>EA</i>                           |         | 5:15 pm- Gentle Yoga            |
| 11 Tue | 5:15 Moderate Yoga               | 20 Thur | 4:15- Yoga                          |         | 7:00 Tai chi                    |
|        | 7:00 Challenging Yoga            |         | 6:15- Yoga                          |         | 7:30 Celtic Clan @ Essex,       |
|        |                                  |         | Evening- CUUPS mtg.- <i>EA- p.4</i> |         | Tallmadge                       |

Tai Chi: 7:00 Advanced, 7:30 Intermediate, 8:00 Beginner - Yoga and Tai Chi are held in Fessenden Hall  
 \**EA*- Eldredge Annex; *FH*- Fessenden Hall; *FL*- Founders' Lounge; *S*-Sanctuary  
*Calendar does not reflect changes or additions after July 14*