

# The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

August 2006

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

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Kent, Ohio 44240  
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[minister-uukent@sbcglobal.net](mailto:minister-uukent@sbcglobal.net)

**Minister's office hours:**

Tuesday - Friday  
By appointment

**Office Manager:**

Judy Brannan

**Office hours:**

Mon. Wed. Thurs. 9 - 1  
Tues. 9 - 11  
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**Deadline:**

The 15th each month

From my first days serving this congregation, it has been clear to me that I would need to come see what Summer Institute is all about. (Truth be told, a few members of the Ministerial Search Committee hinted that it might even be mandatory . . .) Those who are here with me this week will give their own reports. My report is written from the perspective of one who has never attended a Unitarian Universalist retreat center, nor any kind of camp at all. As far as I can tell, Summer Institute is basically a week long all-ages Unitarian Universalist summer camp. It is a chance to hone talents and discover new interests, a place to play and make friends, a place to be silly and a place to be refreshed and renewed. There is worship twice a day and a daily lecture on an engaging theme. There are dances and skits and arts and music (lots and lots of music). There are bikes and hikes and adventures and naps, games and goofiness and lots of good feeling.

Woven throughout it all are chances to learn and grow. I have been enjoying my geology workshop immensely. For me it is an adventure into a whole new world. I've also been enjoying the yoga classes as a chance to build on knowledge I've gained in previous practice. Learning opportunities abound at Summer Institute, cultivating new growth in the learners and inspiring creativity. Best of all, the learning opportunities are diverse. Participants can choose to nurture the whole person - minds, hearts, bodies and spirits.

Now I know that there are those whose work, family and financial commitments (not to mention a preference for introversion) will keep them from attending a Unitarian Universalist camp like Summer Institute, but our church can and should also be a place that offers many ways to nurture the whole person. We already have a number of wonderful learning and growing opportunities available. This fall we will be expanding our scope with new programming.

Our adult religious exploration program will be growing. In addition to the wonderful sessions so many enjoy on Sunday morning, church staff and lay leaders will be offering workshops and classes other times of the week on a variety of topics. Our campus ministry program at Kent State will start its second year with a core group of young adults. Our youth will be reorganizing from a single youth group model to distinct middle and high school groups. Our youth will still have chances to socialize and serve together, but distinct groups will enable us to better meet the distinct needs of younger and older youth. The children's religious education program will be organized in an age graded system using kid-tested and Director of Religious Education approved curricula.

We are aiming at a vision of religious education for the whole person across the lifetime. Keep your eyes open for the religious education brochures that will be sent out later this summer. I hope you will be excited by the new opportunities. But, if you find nothing planned that piques your interest (or if there is something you might enjoy offering), please let me know. We are a growing church. Part of our work is to keep stretching, that our circle may be wide enough to accommodate many different paths.

In faith,

*Melissa*

## August Sermons

**August 6** Michelle Culley

**August 13** "Walking With Snyder" Tom Beck Music: Alan Coker

When I was a child, my mother was assisted in raising us kids by our neighbors, an elderly couple named Mr. and Mrs. Snyder. The Snyders passed away long ago, but when I think about them I'm reminded about how important it is for us to deal with people in a way that is meaningful. The Snyders took the time to really care about other people ... and that made all the difference.

**August 20** "Baseball: A Sermon on the Mound?" Judy Brannan & Bill Eldredge

People find strength, spirituality, beauty and transcendence in all kinds of unlikely places. Some people even find those things at the ball park. Rich in tradition and rife with metaphors, baseball continues to be both a mirror and a distiller of all that it means to be human.

**August 27** "From Vacation Bible School to Hogwarts Kent: A Continuing Evolution in Religious Education"  
Kathy Walker and Saul Flanner

As many of you know, Hogwarts Kent is a magical place for UU children and adults alike. During the Winter 2005 session, Quibbler reporters Sunny Showers and Ferrus Equinus got an inside look, observing classes, interviewing students and professors, and experiencing the magic for themselves. During our service, we'll show you what they found and share our own experiences in religious education: the lessons learned, the values practiced, and the surprisingly common ground discovered.

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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. If you have an urgent concern which requires pastoral care or counseling that cannot wait until I return, please contact Renee Zimelis Ruchotkze. 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. 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 of 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!

## Pledge Checks Needed

Summertime is here again and along with the warm weather and fun activities comes the annual drop in pledge income. The Finance Team would like to remind you that while our income tends to drop during the summer, our expenses do not! Please keep those pledge checks coming in, and consider prepaying all or a portion of your pledge. Ideas and volunteers for fundraising activities are always welcome too! If you would like to know where you stand on your pledge, please see either Beth or Susan; if you would like log-in information to access that data for yourself, please send an email to Beth at.

Thank you – The Finance Team of Beth, Chris, and Susan.

### 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. Please call for more info, Paulette Thurman. Your vase or mine.

### Thanks For All Your Work !

Despite the project taking place when many people were away at SI, work crews from the church prepared and repainted Fessenden Hall over the two Fridays and Saturdays between July 7<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. A great many of you (24 at least by my count) volunteered two hours or more to get the job done, and at the same time had a chance to get to know each other better. Thank you Paul Baker, Carolyn Behrman, Aidan, Rowan and friend, Elaine Bowen, Michelle & Damien Chapman, Amy Edmonds, Jane Krimmer, Mary Leeson, Linda & Rod Mishler, Missy O'Hara, Bret Orsburn, Saunis Parsons, Florence Phillips, Randy Ruchotske, Heidi Shaffer, Kathie Slater, Fred Smith, Laura Teagle and Paulette Thurman. I'm sorry if I've omitted anyone. Special thanks to Jane, Missy, Randy and Heidi who put in many hours of specialized help.

Mike Bruder wants us to paint the room behind the sanctuary in the fall, and then there is the kitchen. . . so there are plenty more opportunities for socializing, with a fulfilling task done at the same time!

*Liz Erickson, Coordinator*

### 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*

### General Assembly Report

This year's GA was very busy with some interesting moments. Compared to last year's GA in Texas, this one in St. Louis was wild. It was good to see many engaged UUs in the business process. The big business issue was the statement of conscience (SOC) titled "Global Warming". A major conflict arose when our Ministry for Earth (ME) folks presented an alternate Statement of Conscience and were told that they can only amend the proposal that has been circulated by the UUA. What followed was an extended debate that did not conclude until just before the GA closing. What started out as a three page SOC has likely doubled in length as the ME folks with the support of the delegates amended the SOC in a "wholesale" manner. There were also significant changes made to the SOC process itself. We will move from two SOC's on a staggered two year schedule to two SOC's on a four year staggered schedule. Another serious change is that each Study Action Item/SOC will require 25% congregational process engagement. This sounds easy, but up till now we've only gotten 10 to 20% involvement. Kent is one of the few congregations that has consistently engaged in the original process.

Susan and I introduced an Action of Immediate Witness (AIW) titled "Provide Living Wages and Promised Benefits to Armed Forces Personnel". We agreed to merge our AIW into a similar AIW called "Declaration of Peace". The final AIW was approved by the delegates.

Susan and I recently agreed to be the Regional Coordinators for our UU Service Committee (UUSC). This will involve working with all the local UUSC representatives in our district/region in the promotion of UUSC. We spent a lot of time with the UUSC folks and will be going to Cambridge, MA for the UUSC annual meeting in September.

There were two changes involving my work with UUs for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (UUADP). I was asked by the UUA Office of Advocacy and Witness to represent UUADP with a coalition of other UU justice seeking affiliates and the UUADP board appointed me to be the Executive VP of the organization.

Susan and I also spent time networking to set up UU State Legislative Advocacy groups in our district. We are working on one here in Ohio. We advised some Pennsylvania folks on their group and we are pleased to report that Mel Hoover is setting up a group in West Virginia.

Mac Goekler  
Denominational Affairs Coordinator

### Directory Correction

Michele Angelo-Baker reports that her email address as listed in the church directory is incorrect. She has missed some important e-mails from church members because of this. Her correct e-mail address is - .

*Editor*

### March in Bicentennial Parade

The 140th Anniversary Task Force has a group working on organizing participation in the Kent Bicentennial Parade. Hogwarts is also participating, but this is organized separately. The 140th Annual Task Force is planning something on the theme of the history of the church.

We plan to have people marching in period clothing (to be provided) or modern clothing carrying signs or banners referring to the social causes that our church has espoused since its early days. Some marchers have expressed interest in singing old hymns or songs of the social causes. Those walking will need to assemble at the KSU Music and Speech Building at 9 am on September 9th.

Please contact Martha Kluth, Liz Erickson, or Kathy Wilen if you would like to volunteer to walk in the parade.

*Martha Kluth*

### Speaker from Palestine Children's Relief Fund

The Social Justice Committee will present a talk by Steve Sosebee of the Palestine Children's Relief Fund on Friday, August 18th at 7:30PM in the church sanctuary. Steve will talk about the situation in the Middle East and the effort to aid children from that region. He will also talk about the visit this summer of a girl to Kent to receive medical treatment here in Ohio. Refreshments will be served, and child care will be provided.

*Vivien Sandlund*

### Book Club

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

On September 12 at 7 pm, we will be at Betty Kendrick's, Kent. The book will be Saturday by Ian McEwan.

*Martha Kluth*

### First Annual Ice Cream Social

Come and party the night away at our church's First Annual Ice Cream Social and Funky Tie-Dye Dance Party on Wednesday, Aug 16, in Fessenden Hall. Ice cream will be served starting at 7:00, and DJ John Marfy will start taking your requests at 8:00. A great family fun evening! Tickets are \$4 in advance or \$5 at the door.

### Campfire Fun!

A group of 25 people from this church will be camping for a weekend at **West Branch State Park** in August. While we cannot accommodate any more campers\*, we would like to invite you to join us around the campfire on **Saturday August 5 from 8-10 pm**. Sing camp songs, roast marshmallows, play games, etc. Bring a camp or lawn chair and a musical instrument too. West Branch is on the east side of Ravenna. From Kent, take 59 east, past Ravenna's downtown area. Pick up Route 5 east and follow the signs for camping. When you drive up to the Camp Office, tell them you are a visitor for Group Camp Area C. You can either pay one dollar and drive back to the site, or park in the large lot at the camp office and take a very short walk to the site. For more info, contact Kelley Plishka.

\* Our group campsite is full but if you'd like to camp, you may reserve a spot on your own for the weekend by calling 1-866-644-6727.

### Where's Walden in the Fall?

Participate in exploring our spiritual connection with nature and our transcendentalist heritage. Join Henry Thoreau in our Fall activity with the theme "Spirit of the Seneca." It will involve a camping trip to an area about two hours away, the Tionesta area of Pennsylvania, home of the Seneca (one of the Iroquois federation tribes). We shall follow their footsteps on water and foot: you have a choice of hiking on the trails in the Allegheny National Forest or canoeing on a special scenic section of the Allegheny River. Set aside the **weekend of September 29<sup>th</sup>** and look for more information closer to that date. You can also talk to Ed Stolish, Jim Scott, Jill Forsman or Bruce Richards.

### Celtic Clan

8/7/06 7:30 PM Practice at the church  
8/14/06 7PM Brookside Senior Assisted Living, Ravenna  
8/21/06 7:30 Practice at the church  
8/28/06 7:30 Practice at the church

## August Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30 RE Commit- tee meeting	2 7:00 BYOT <i>FL</i>	3	4 Camping @ West Branch <i>p. 4</i>	5 Camping 12- 6 Fessenden rented
6 7:30 AA	7 7:00 Tai chi 7:30 Celtic Clan practice	8 7:00 Book Group	9 (7:00) 7:15 Board mtg.	10 7:00 Men's Group	11 10:30-noon Private Yoga Class	12
13 7:30 AA	14 7:00 Worship Associates <i>EA</i> 7:00 Tai chi	15 7:00 Celtic Clan @ Brookside Assisted Living	16 6:30-ish Ice Cream Social <i>p. 4</i>	17	18	19
20 12:30 Social Justice Committee <i>F</i> 11:45 Board Listen- ing Session 7:30 AA	21 7:00 Tai chi 7:30 Celtic Clan practice	22	23	24	25	26 12:00-4:00 PM OWL Parent Orientation <i>S</i>
27 1:00 Picnic @ Plum Creek <i>p. 5</i> 7:30 AA	28 7:00 Tai chi 7:30 Celtic Clan practice	29	30	31		

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 17*

### 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

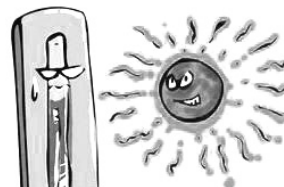
Thursdays - Heidi/Megan

4:15-5:45 pm - gentle/moderate yoga

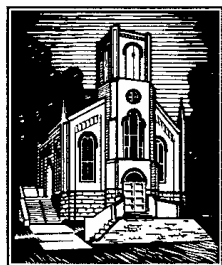
6-7:30 pm - moderate yoga

### Church Picnic Potluck!

Wrap up the summer with another famous UU Kent Church Picnic Potluck. Bring a dish to share! It's at Plum Creek Park in Kent (at the intersection of Cherry St. & Mogadore Rd.) and starts at 1 pm in Shelter #3 on August 27. Be prepared for some good company, culinary delights, and fun sing-alongs. Grill, burgers, faux-burgers, buns, condiments, and paper supplies will be provided. Contact Elaine Bowen or Kelley Plishka for more info.



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



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### Message From the Moderator

Our church is full of great energy and wonderful people. Our building is looking more welcoming...thank you to the folks who painted Fessenden Hall recently, it looks so fresh.

If you are new, welcome! We hope you will return. The summer is a time of varied services with something for everyone.

Our new Church Board held a retreat in June to create goals for 2006-2007. The majority of the Board is continuing from last year so we will have good continuity. The meeting was graciously hosted by Beth Wills and facilitated by District staff person, Jeanne Crane. We formulated a behavioral covenant for our work together. Jeanne lead us in an exercise to develop our asking skills in inviting church members to become involved in church works and activities.

The Board and the Committee on Ministry have completed an evaluation of our Minister, Melissa Ziemer towards her comple-

tion of Fellowship. Our assessment was very positive. We are so fortunate to have found such a wonderful minister.

Great news from Beth Wills, our Financial Trustee - Leslie Barrett has volunteered to be our Fundraising Coordinator ([lesliebarrett9@yahoo.com](mailto:lesliebarrett9@yahoo.com)). We have had higher than anticipated expenses in several areas recently, so do contact her with your fundraising ideas.

Several of our members went to UU University before General Assembly this year: Beth Wills was on the financial track, Susan Goekler on the membership track, and Bob Erdman on the leadership track. They are sharing their information with the relevant individuals and committees.

Do contact me if you have concerns or questions. If I cannot help I will direct you to the right person.

In Faith,  
Trish McLoughlin