



The Chalice Flame

September 2006

Sunday Services
10:30 am (summer)

228 Gougler Ave.
Kent, Ohio 44240

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Website: www.kentuu.org

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Minister:

Rev. Melissa Ziemer

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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:

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Newsletter editor:

Brad Bolton

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Deadline:

The 15th each month

One.

The Episcopal Church of the Messiah welcomes everyone.

We look to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ for our model of community and acknowledge both the simplicity and complexity of that challenge.

We welcome Episcopalians, Christians from other traditions, and members of other faiths.

We welcome seekers and skeptics, agnostics and atheists.

We welcome the hopeful, the despondent, the ambivalent and the indifferent.

We welcome all ages and abilities, classes and cultures, races, genders, and sexual orientations.

We welcome everyone to participate in our worship and in our community, without insisting that any person become like any one of us in order to be accepted.

The Church of the Messiah asks only that you extend to all the same welcome articulated here.

This welcoming statement recently came across my email and captured my attention. I've never visited this church so I don't have an opinion about how well they walk their talk, but I really like their talk. I like the way they make clear who they are and what they are about while simultaneously making room for people who might not be just like them.

Two.

Radically Inclusive. Spiritually Alive. Justice Centered.

These aspirations are at the heart of the mission of the Unitarian Universalist Young Adult and Campus Ministry Network. In a time when fear is justified and sometimes even counseled in the public square, the call to be radically inclusive is prophetic. In a culture that encourages consuming as a primary value, the call to be spiritually alive is counter-cultural. In a world plagued by war, degradation, indifference and despair, the call to be justice centered is life-affirming and filled with hope. This mission inspires and challenges me – it calls out my Yes!

Three.

The statements we create to describe who we are, why we exist in the world (mission), what we dream (vision) and how we will be together as we aspire to live out our calling (covenant) are vitally important. This year at church you will be invited to spend some time reviewing the statements we have inherited as a church and considering whether they are in need of any revision. The details of the process will be shared later this fall. Between now and then, I invite you to notice what about your experience with this church captures your attention, inspires and challenges you and calls out your Yes!

It's been a while since I've seen many of you. I hope your summers have been good and I look forward to seeing you in church.

In faith,

Melissa

September Sermons

September 3 *After Katrina* Renee Zimelis Ruchotzke

After working in the hurricane-devastated Gulf Coast last spring with 400 college students, Renee Zimelis Ruchotzke shares her experiences and reflects on the question: "Who is our neighbor?" We will also be installing the Transition Committee, who are charged with supporting and challenging Renee in her ministerial formation.

September 10 *Journeying* Rev. Melissa Ziemer

The whole extended family is invited to gather together for our annual Ingathering service. Bring a small sample of water and soil from a place that has been important to you this summer to share in our celebration.

Beginning today we return to two Sunday worship services – 9:45 and 11:30.

September 17 *The Gift of Faith* Rev. Melissa Ziemer

From worship and coffee hour to potlucks and committee meetings, everything we do in church is religious education. My sermon this morning will reflect on the lifelong process of teaching and learning about faith.

We will also celebrate a child dedication for Lola Snyder.

September 24 *A Bold Vision* Rev. Melissa Ziemer

Our annual canvass provides us with an opportunity to dedicate our financial resources to the fulfillment of our ministry. This is a good time to take a look at the shape and scope of the ministry we share today and dream together about our ministry for tomorrow.



Message from the Moderator

What is a moderator? In other churches I might be called the church president. I collaborate with the wonderful team of people, all volunteers, who make up the Board. With input from members of the congregation, our Minister, the Staff and the Board, I plan the agenda for Board and Congregational meetings. One of my responsibilities is ensuring faithful compliance with our By-Laws in all operations of the Congregation, Board and Committees. Another aspect of my role is to inspire our Board and Congregation to fulfill their dreams for our Church.

The Board has recently clarified our goals for the year: We intend to work to help create a *culture of welcome*. We are envisioning a total membership of 200 people by May 2007. We see ourselves becoming a welcoming congregation for children with attendance at RE growing to 60 or more. We dedicate ourselves to being a Board focused on mission, vision and policy; increasing our delegation skills and empowering committees to do their work with creativity.

The UUA encourages congregations to be proactive in developing safety policies for children and adults. We already have a child safety policy so the Board and Minister recently asked the Committee on Ministry to develop an adult safety policy. They titled it The Policy Regarding Disruptive Behavior. The Board has adopted the policy with minor changes. We are recommending that language be added to the By-Laws to reference this policy. There will be an opportunity for discussion at the next Con-

gregational meeting 9/20. The amended language will be voted on at the December Congregational meeting. A copy of the policy is attached to the August minutes. We wish to clarify that this is not a behavioral covenant which would of course require extended congregational involvement.

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

In Faith,

Trish McLoughlin

Young Adult Survey

Are you between the ages of 18 and 35?

The Unitarian Universalist Association Young Adult and Campus Ministry Office wants to know how they can better serve you. Please take twenty minutes of your time to complete the 2006 survey available at

<http://www.uua.org/ya-cm/yacm/2006%20Survey.html>

The last day to submit surveys is September 8.

Fundraising news

Well it may be a little early to worry about cold and flu season, but it's never too early to think about Service Auction! This year's auction is planned for November 4, and the theme is All That Jazz. Donation forms will be available beginning September 17th, so start thinking now about all the exciting items you could offer! Tickets will be on sale beginning October 15 for \$12. As always, you can earn free tickets by volunteering to help "backstage." Please contact Leslie Barrett or Beth Wills if you would like to volunteer.

UUCK has signed up for 2 new fundraising activities. We are now registered with Goodsearch.com, which donates a percentage of its advertising revenues to us for every Web search we make on their site. We are also an Amazon.com associate, and receive a percentage of any sales made through the link on our website – so if you're getting ready for school, you can stock up now and make the church some money at no extra cost to you! Links to both these opportunities are posted on our website, www.kentuu.org. If you're interested in writing short book reviews for the website, please contact Beth Wills or Mike Plishka.

The UUCK Finance Pod now has an email list! If you're interested in staying on top of what's going on with fundraising, canvass, capital campaign, or the endowment funds, you can join this group by going to

Ideas are always welcome!!

Beth Wills

New U Class

Interested in joining our Church or simply want to know more about Unitarian Universalism? Please join us for a four-session course of exploration on Sept 17, 24, and Oct 1, 8.

All sessions will be held on Sunday after the first service, 11:30-12:30 in the Eldridge Annex. There will be a sign up sheet and more information on the new member bulletin board (conveniently located next to the coffee pot) in the Fellowship hall. You can contact Kay Clatterbuck with any questions.

New Book by UU Minister

New Book by UU Minister - Rev. Matt Tittle, minister of Bay Area UU Church in Houston, TX, has just published *Taking Back Faith: Heretical Thoughts for a New Century*. This book is a collection of 25 bold sermons on social justice, progressive theology, UUism, and being our best selves. All of Rev. Tittle's proceeds will support his congregation's current Capital Campaign. Signed copies are available online NOW at www.revimmatt.org. Individual and bulk copies are also available directly from the publisher at www.iuniverse.com. Please contact Rev. Tittle at _____ with questions.

Announcing a party!

A party to celebrate the marriage of Melissa and Ellen! The Marfy's are happy to host an open house gathering on Sunday, September 17th from 2 to 5 o'clock. Melissa and Ellen were married in Vermont in July and now it is time for our congregation to celebrate this union. Come for the afternoon or stop by for a short time, but do come! All are welcome. Musicians are encouraged to bring their instruments; there will be a jam zone.

The Marfy's live at _____ in Tallmadge; our phone number is _____. Call Kim or John if you have any questions. This is a child-friendly event.

Greeters Wanted

The Membership Committee is looking for a few people to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings. Anyone interested is invited to dinner on Thurs. Sept. 7, to meet with the committee and find out more about this volunteer position. We'll gather at 6:30 p.m. at the Leeson's home. RSVP to Mary by Monday Sept 4

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 29th** and look for more information closer to that date. You can also talk to Ed Stolish, Jim Scott, Jill Forsman or Bruce Richards.

Out To Lunch Bunch

Each Sunday after the second service, people who are interested in sharing a meal and conversation with other church members are invited to join with others for a Dutch treat lunch at an area restaurant. OPEN TO ALL. In September, the restaurants will be as follows. If people have recommendations for other choices, please contact Susan Goekler.

September 3	China City --- University Plaza
September 10	El Campesino -- Rt. 59
September 17	China City
September 24	El Campesino

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.

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



Church Babysitters Network

Planning a church event? Or any gathering large or small? Remember to incorporate babysitting in your plan. Under the guidance of our DRE, Michelle Culley, a babysitting network was developed with a group of our dedicated and reliable youth (ages 12-16). Parents who utilize these services will be responsible for a pre-arranged fee for babysitters and meal/snack for children if applicable. For babysitting arrangements or questions, please contact Laura Teagle.

Seasonal Reflection

The beautiful dance of autumn begins. The whirling colorful leaves, the shifting golden light of the sun. A slight chill is creeping into the air at night and angles of geese on the move pierce the sky.

The fall equinox is a time of perfect balance between light and dark, creation and destruction. We are reminded that we are part of the great cycle of life. It is time to take stock in what we have harvested and gathered in and reflect thankfully on the fruits of our labors.

As we feel things around us changing and slipping away like the leaves from the trees we begin to look inward and appreciate the things that remain deep within us - family, loving relationships, our connection to community and our inner wisdom.

Many blessings to all in this beautiful season of change.

Lynette Morrow, Kent CUUPS

Book Club

The September meeting of the Book Group will be on Sept. 12 at 7 pm at Betty Kendrick's. Our book will be Saturday by Ian McEwan. This engrossing novel deals with a day in the life of a London neurosurgeon. "McEwan writing on absolutely top form." –Daily Mail

In October we will read *March* by Geraldine Brooks which deals with the fictional character of the father in *Little Women*. Location to be announced.

Martha Kluth

Sermons and Minutes Available

Some of Rev. Melissa Ziemer's past sermons are available in the Founders' Lounge for \$1.00 each. Your donation can be placed in the black lockbox, also in the lounge.

The Board meeting minutes are available for review in the Founders' Lounge.

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

Celtic Clan

9/4/06 No practice

9/11/06 7PM Loyaltown of Ravenna

9/18/06 7PM Kent Health Care Center

9/25/06 7:30 Practice in the Sanctuary

September 2006							
						1	2
3 7:30 AA	4 7:00 tai chi No Celtic Clan	5 5:15 Moderate yoga 7:00 Challenging yoga	6 9:30 am- Yoga 7:00 Pilates 7:00 Comm. on Ministry EA	7 7:00 Greeter Appreciation Dinner	8	9 2:00-5:00 Yoga workshop	
10 Ingathering service 9:45 am- First service 11:30 am- Second service 3:00 Prenatal Yoga 5:00 Beginners' Yoga 7:00 Music fundraiser 7:30 AA	11 10:15 Yoga 5:15 Yoga 7:00 tai chi 7:00 Celtic Clan @ Loyalton of Ravenna	12 5:15 Moderate yoga 7:00 Challenging yoga	13 9:30 am- Yoga 7:00 Pilates (7:00) 7:15 Board Meet- ing	14 7:00 Men's Group EA	15 Wedding rehearsal	16 5:00 Wedding (rental)	
17 11:30 am- New UU <i>p. 3</i> 2:00 Celebration at Marfys' <i>p. 3</i> 3:00 Prenatal Yoga 5:00 Beginners' Yoga 7:30 AA	18 10:15 Yoga 5:15 Yoga 7:00 tai chi 7:00 Celtic Clan @ Kent Healthcare center	19 5:15 Moderate yoga 7:00 Challenging yoga	20 9:30 am- Yoga 1-3 Eldredge Annex in use 7:00 Pilates 7:00 Congregational Info. mtg. <i>p. 7</i>	21	22	23 Canvass	
24 11:30 am- New UU 1:00 Hogwarts mtg. 3:00 Prenatal Yoga 5:00 Beginners' Yoga 7:30 AA Canvass	25 10:15 Yoga 5:15 Yoga 7:00 tai chi 7:00 Celtic Clan S	26 5:15 Moderate yoga 7:00 Challenging yoga 7:00 Auction mtg. EA	27 9:30 Yoga 7:00 Pilates	28	29 Fall Walden <i>p. 3</i>	30 Fall Walden	

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

Congregational Meeting

There will be an Informational Congregational Meeting on September 20 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Some items on the agenda include: Marion Yeagler, Canvass Chair, will discuss the annual pledge drive to support the operating budget.

Mac and Susan Goekler on our participation in the current UUA study/action issues, the new issue is Peacemaking.

Trish McLoughlin, Moderator: The Board adoption of a congregational safety policy: **Policy Regarding Disruptive Behavior** and the need for referencing this policy in the by-laws, the Board's goals for the year, and UUA 2007 Portland Oregon. Please plan on attending.

Beth Wills

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.

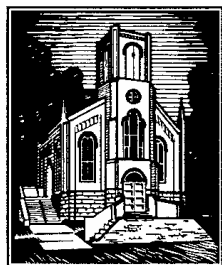


September Ingathering Service

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!

Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

228 Gougler Ave.



Return Service Requested

Call the office to cancel your *Chalice Flame*

My Congregation - the Lyrics

The office of the Geezer Associates Sustaining Partners has received an avalanche of calls requesting the lyrics to a song the Geezers recently sang for Humor Sunday, a parody of the Who's "My Generation". We here at GASP are only too happy to supply the updated lyrics.

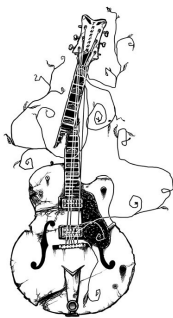
My Congregation

1964 the Who, arr. B. Bolton and C. Anderson

Falwell tries, to put us down
(talkin' bout my congregation)
We won't take it, lying down
(talkin' bout my congregation)
Hank Thoreau is our hero
(talkin' bout my congregation)
Next to him, Calvin's a zero
(talkin' bout my congregation)

My congregation, my congregation baby
My congregation, my congregation baby

[Above format continues for following verses, i.e. text in parentheses and the chorus after each 4 lines is sung]



Open minds, we light our chalice
Open hearts, we have no malice
Have no creed, no dogma goals
WE have seven principles

Read our minds, on our bumpers
You won't find no, bible thumpers
Long haired short haired butch or baldin'
All together we're lookin for Walden

We don't have no bible school
Hogwarts is our teaching tool.
Down to earth, never stuffy
We get high on fair trade coffee

Vegetarian, gluten free
Organically grown, non-dairee
Muslim, Buddhist, liberal Christian
Humanist, Atheist, Pagan, Wiccen

We are gay and we are proud
We wear our politics, very loud
Recycle reuse, don't pollute
Drive hybrid cars to summer institute
Save the whale, save the lion
Save us from Dick Cheney's lyin'