



The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent



June 2007

Sunday Services
9:30 and 11:15

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Kent, Ohio 44240
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Minister:

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer
minister-uukent@sbcglobal.net

Minister's office hours:

Tuesday - Friday
By appointment

Office Manager:

Judy Brannan

Office hours:

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Tues. 9 - 11
Fri. 8:30 - 1:30

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Newsletter editor:

Brad Bolton
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Deadline:

The 15th each month

Mindful

Mary Oliver

from her collection *Why I Wake Early*

Every day
I see or hear
something
that more or less

kills me
with delight,
that leaves me
like a needle

in the haystack
of light.
It was what I was born for -
to look, to listen,

to lose myself
inside this soft world -
to instruct myself
over and over

in joy,
and acclamation.

Nor am I talking
about the exceptional,

the fearful, the dreadful,
the very extravagant -
but of the ordinary,
the common, the very drab,

the daily presentations.
Oh, good scholar,
I say to myself,
how can you help

but grow wise
with such teachings
as these -
the untrimmable light

of the world,
the ocean's shine,
the prayers that are made
out of grass?

I offer you this poem, offer it as a prayer that we may pay attention. As the crispness of spring melts away into the heat of summer, I invite you to make time for wonder and delight. I invite you to take time for devotion.

Every day we awake to lavish gifts of beauty and mystery. Our great task is to receive the gifts into ourselves and to release ourselves into the gifts. A good practice any time of year, but especially now in this time of lovely turning.

In faith and fellowship,

Melissa



June Sermons

June 3 In Praise of the Wild

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Ted Voneida

This morning we will celebrate wildness together in this special worship service for all ages. Please bring a single flower to share in our ritual of the Flower Communion.

June 10 Surprise and Delight

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Christie Anderson

What more can we say? Come join us for our celebration of life.

June 17 On Perfection

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Kristofer Sperry

We know no one is perfect. We know that perfection is impossible. And yet . . . This morning we will explore the power of perfectionism and possibilities for liberation.

June 24 This I Believe

Lay leader Lori McGee and Worship Associate Linda Mishler

After nearly a year's work of religious exploration and study of Richard S. Gilbert's Building Your Own Theology, this Adult Religious education group will present their own "credos", based on our 7 UU principles. You will hear the culmination of this year of study, honestly and openly.



Message from the Moderator

May is a time of change in our church as we elect a new Board of Trustees. Over the next year I am looking forward to working with my board colleagues:

Rhonda Richardson, Assistant Moderator
Lori McGee, Board Secretary
Beth Straubhaar, Treasurer
Randy Ruchotzke, Trustee of Building and Grounds
Jim Scott, Trustee of Fellowship
Beth Wills, Trustee of Finance
Joel Slater, Trustee of Programming
Bret Orsburn, Trustee of the Wider World
Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer, Minister

We say goodbye to board members who have just completed 2 years of service: Trish McLoughlin (Assistant Moderator/Moderator), Chris Hurlbut (Treasurer), Mike Bruder (Buildings and Grounds), Mike Hovanssek (Programming), and Swanny Voneida (Wider World). All of them put in many hours of work on behalf of the church, invariably doing so with thoughtfulness, commitment, good humor, and a spirit of cooperation. They carried out their duties with an eye toward what was best for our beloved church community. I will miss having

them as board colleagues, and I warmly wish them a relaxing "leadership sabbatical" (note I did not say "retirement", we hope to tap your leadership skills again in the future!). I encourage you also to thank them for their dedicated service to the church.

The new Board will have many opportunities to exchange ideas with the congregation in the coming year. This month you are welcome to join us for a Coffee Chat with the Board (see notice on p. 5). We will continue the tradition of Fall and Spring information meetings and a Congregation voting meeting in December to approve the budget. The outgoing Board also decided to have a bulletin board in Fessenden Hall which is dedicated to items from the Board. We will post meeting minutes, board member reports, and other items. You also are welcome to contact any of us individually with your questions and comments. In all of these activities we hope to foster good communication, which requires of everyone honest and respectful sharing and careful listening to one another as we all work together to discern what is best for our community.

See you in church.

In faith and fellowship, Kathy Kerns, Moderator

News from the Finance Pod

There will be a fundraising meeting Wednesday, June 13 at 6:00 pm in the annex. We'll be planning events for the rest of 2007, including the Farmer's Market and Service Auction. Please come and bring your ideas, enthusiasm, and friends! Fundraising is a great way to get involved in our community while doing something positive for the church. Questions and suggestions can be directed to Bev Cole .

As we develop new financial policies to help our growing church maintain a healthy financial system, we have to tighten up some of our current procedures! Please make sure that, if you are requesting money for a church-related expense that you fill out a green "Request for Disbursal of Funds" sheet. This request must be accompanied by invoices or receipts documenting the expenditure, and must be signed by the appropriate committee chair or Trustee. Also, expect a slight lag time before you receive your check – plan on about 2 weeks for Beth to get and process your request, write the check, and get it to you. If you are depositing money for a church function, please make sure it is counted by two people and clearly marked as to what it is for; there are deposit sheets, envelopes, and a calculator in the metal cabinet in the lobby. With so many people and so many activities in our church, we need to be extra careful to make sure everything gets paid or credited correctly, and we need your help to do it! If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any of our dedicated finance team: Beth Straubhaar, Treasurer; Dan Hayes, Financial Secretary; Susan Goekler, Chair of the Finance Committee; or Beth Wills, Trustee for Finance.

Beth Wills

Midsummer



Midsummer is also known as Litha (Roman), Summer Solstice, St. Ivan's Day (Hungary), All Couples Day (Greece), and the list goes on. It is celebrated around June 21st. It marks the longest day of the year. It is when the sun is at the height of its power and even though we look forward to the hottest days of the year, we now begin to enter into the waning year. From now on, each day the sun will say farewell a little bit earlier than the day before.

At this time, the Goddess is full with pregnancy as is the earth with crops. We continue to nurture the growing life in order to bring it to fruition at harvest time. This is also a time for honoring the God. The Sun God is at his peak and we celebrate his approaching fatherhood. This is the Solstice where the Oak King battles and gives in to the Holly King, who will reign until Yule.

Midsummer is known as a fire festival. Great bonfires are created and the tradition of jumping the fire, driving cattle between two bonfires are still observed as they are for Beltane. Some will create solar wheels, light them on fire and roll them down the hill as a representation of the Sun's power.

May you have an abundant and prosperous Summer.

Susan Smith, Kent CUUPS

Where's Walden in the Summer?

Saturday, June 9TH, 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Pymatuning State Park in Pennsylvania
Theme: Marvelous Marshes & Sacred Swamps

I enter a swamp as a sacred place, a sanctum sanctorum. There is the strength, the marrow of Nature. We need the tonic of wildness, -to wade sometimes in marshes where the bittern and the meadow-hen lurk, and hear the booming of the snipe.

A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is earth's eye, looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature Henry Thoreau.

Activities:

Many of you know Lake Pymatuning, just an hour and a half away, on the border of Ohio and Pennsylvania. For many it is a place for fishing and beaches, but, like Walden there is much more. Come and join us as we explore the marshes of Pymatuning State Park to see the birds and wild life there and to experience the swamps as a sacred place.

What will we be doing? Ed Stolish has found the wonderful Wildlife Learning Center and its rangers: it is a place for children of all ages and adults to find out about the wildlife in the area- including the eagle nests. After a silent walk along a nature trail and a chance to watch a fish feeding, we shall be exploring a quiet area with marshes to really experience the swamp environment.

Camping:

This is officially a day activity but we have booked a quiet primitive group- camping area so people can come on Friday night to camp or stay on over Saturday night. Cost is \$5/ person. For further details, see information in Fessenden Hall or call Liz Erickson , Gordon Vars , Ed Stolish or Jill Forsman.

Child Care at Church

The Committee on Ministry recently discussed a topic regarding group meetings in the building. Occasionally a group has met in the church without providing childcare. At times, some areas (especially religious education rooms) have been left in disarray with food, juice stains, and/or craft materials on the tables. At times, this extra cleanup has added 3-4 hours to Pam's workload. In addition to the conditions of the rooms, we have a concern for the safety of our children. As much as we love that there is a level of comfort in the community that invites children to be present, we also have a concern about unsupervised exploration in a building with so much character.

The Committee on Ministry and our RE Coordinator Gina Maida has arranged for a "fun box" to be kept for children's use during committee meetings. Look for it on the window ledge in Fessenden Hall. We'd like to ask everyone to care for our communal space and continue to enjoy it.

Jay Grech, Committee on Ministry

Truth Telling Workshop

June 16 Eldridge Annex 9:30 -2:30

This workshop will be based on the book The Dance of Deception by Harriet Lerner. We will try to unravel the lies, secrets and silences that affect our lives. We will explore how the struggle toward truth telling is at the center of our deepest longings for intimacy, authenticity, and self-regard.

Kristina Spaude & Linda Mishler will be facilitating the workshop. The workshop is open to anyone interested in attending. If you are interested in attending, but cannot attend this time, we would appreciate you expressing your interest, because we anticipate exploring more of the "Dance" series.

Space will be limited, so please contact Kristina, kspaude@hotmail.com, or Linda, ljmi@neo.rr.com. Please call Kristina with questions or if you need to make reservations by phone.



Tai chi --

- a non-impact "meditation in motion." Although you can study it for a lifetime, by coming you do not make a commitment for any number of sessions -- come when you can. You are welcome to start any Monday night. Wear loose fitting clothing, as it is participatory. Questions? Contact Susan Goekler, certified tai chi instructor with the Tai Chi Association of Atlanta, GA .

7:00 Advanced
7:30 Intermediate
8:00 Beginner



Board Meeting

The new board will meet on June 6 at 7:15PM in the Eldredge Annex.

140th Anniversary Year Thanks!

Our year of celebrating "140 Years of Standing Witness" has drawn to a close. That it was as successful as it was is due in no small part to a lot of dedicated people in this congregation who, when I needed help, stepped forward and said "Yes!" For that, I cannot thank them enough. Back in late 2005 when I sent an e-mail out merely reminding people that 2006 marked the 140th anniversary of the founding of our congregation, I had no idea that it would mushroom into what it became – a year long celebration of our history, with emphasis on our church's part in standing witness for social justice throughout its over century-long history.

There are some people in particular who I feel deserve special thanks for all of their hard work on making this past year's celebration such a success, and I want to start out by singling out one in particular whose vision, energy and passion for this whole project became a driving force into making this such a special year, and that is Vivien Sandlund. Viv has been nothing short of amazing! Not only is she a wellspring of historical knowledge, owing to her professional life as a history professor at Hiram College, but her passion knows no bounds. I found myself drawing on all of those qualities for inspiration in each project that we set ourselves to doing. And for that, I can't thank Viv enough for everything that she's done throughout this entire anniversary year.

I have to admit that when I was asked to chair the 140th Anniversary Task Force, I wasn't terribly keen on the whole idea, but the work of another person who I want to single out helped me to find the confidence to forge ahead and take on this task, and

that is Bob Erdman. Bob's patient guidance gave me what I needed to take on something I had never tried before. I don't consider myself to be the world's most organized person or the most confident of leaders, but with Bob's help, I was able to take on this Task Force with a feeling that I could do this and do it well enough to make myself, and the rest of the church, proud.

Others who deserve special thanks for their tireless support are Bonny Esparza, Tom Myers, Mike Bruder, Martha Kluth, Liz Erickson, Kathy Slater, Elaine Bowen, Kathy Wilen, Ted and Swanny Voneida, Caroline Arnold, Liam Grice – and if I forgot anyone, apologies and thank you to you as well. I'd also like to extend a special thank you to former church member Paula Copestick, who provided me with valuable information about the life and work of our first female minister, Rev. Abbie Danforth, for our final anniversary service, "Women Rising". For that, I thank her greatly.

I would be remiss, though, if I did not thank as well our wonderful minister, Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer, for all of her support, enthusiasm and energy and encouragement for this entire project. It's been a real treat working with so many talented people on all of this and I cannot thank you all enough for all of the generosity and support that you have given this whole year's commemoration. I could not have done it alone. All of you made this whole thing possible. I just had the idea – you all ran with it and made it happen. Thank you so much for being a part of this very special commemoration of 140 Years of Standing Witness.

Sally Burnell, Anniversary Task Force chair (ret'd!)

Summer Preschool Teacher Needed

The Summer Religious Education Program of the UU Church of Kent is seeking a preschool teacher for children ages 3 to 6 with a start date of June 17th 2007. The rate of pay is \$15.00 per Sunday. Responsibilities include following curriculum and preparing the lesson. We would prefer a person able to teach every Sunday from June 17th through Sept 2nd. Applications are available now and are located on table outside the sanctuary. Deadline for application is June 10th. Place completed application in the mailbox of the Director of Religious Education located in the Annex. Contact Laura Teagle or Mary Leeson with questions.

Chat with New Board

The new Board welcomes the congregation to participate in the "Coffee Chat with the Board" session on June 24th at 11:45 am in the sanctuary. This chatting session will be similar to the old listening session format, but expanded to allow discussion between the Board and members of the church. We will hold these chats every two months. There is no agenda; bring your kudos, comments, and questions !

Tarot Workshop

The Kent CUUPS Group is sponsoring a Tarot Workshop on Saturday, July 14 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in Fessenden Hall. Come develop your relationship with this ancient tool used for insight and guidance. This 4 hour workshop will cover the basic format of tarot methods to help you memorize, personalize, and internalize the symbols. You will also learn basic spreads, and to trust your intuition and throw away the guide book. Cost for the workshop is \$35.00. Call Lisa Hart for reservations or email her .



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.

New "Thank You" Column

The newsletter will feature a "Thank You" column beginning in July. For this column, members of the congregation are invited to submit a short "thank you" to someone who has made a difference in their church experience. Please send submissions to Brad Bolton, newsletter editor. You may include your name if you wish or remain anonymous.

Lori McGee

Yoga Schedule at Church

Sundays - Heidi/Barb
4-6:00 pm - Yoga and meditation
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
4:30-6:00 pm - gentle/moderate yoga
6:30-8:00 pm - moderate yoga

CUUPS notes

Pagan 101 classes have been suspended for the summer months and will resume in September. The CUUPS meeting for June will be held on Tuesday, June 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Art Room of the Church. Lynnette Morrow will teach us how to make traveling altars. If you are interested in attending, please contact Beth Straubhaar at .



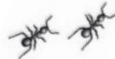
Toronto Jazz Fest - UU lodging

Bed and Breakfast in Toronto with Unitarians for the **19th Annual Toronto Beaches International Jazz Festival. July 26-29, 2007.** FREE street festival of Jazz, Rhythm & Blues, Samba, Latin. 50 live bands. Outdoor music, entertainment, fun for the whole family. The members of Neighbourhood UU Congregation that live close to, or in, the Beaches are opening their doors as a fundraiser for the congregation. Please contact Jon Whitehead for further information. Check out www.beachesjazz.com and www.beachesbia.com and www.nuuc.ca

Remember to Pay your Pledge!

It's summertime. Picnics, vacations and warm days are waiting. While enjoying the season, please don't forget to pay your pledge. Our beloved church still has financial obligations, and we need your support. Thank you for helping and caring for our wonderful UU community!

Kent Haymaker Farmer's Market



The downtown Kent Haymaker Farmer's Market kicks off Saturday, June 16 and runs every Saturday into October. As we have in the past, UUCK will once again be having a booth selling baked goods, jams & jellies, and craft items. We've found that this is a great way, not only to make money for the church, but also to get our name out into the community! We need bread and cookie bakers, jelly makers, people who are willing to man (or wo-man!) the booth, and people who are able to help with transporting, setting up, and taking down the tables and umbrella. If you are interested in volunteering to help out with this fun event, please contact Bev Cole or Beth Wills .

SI is Coming

Summer Institute is closer than you think! The deadline for early registration is June 1.

If you don't already have a Summer Institute brochure, you can access both the brochure and the registration form at <http://www.omdsi.org/07SIbrochure.pdf> or on the OMD website at <http://omd.uua.org/> .

Church Picnic Potluck

Join us for a fine summer kickoff, Sunday, June 10 at 1:00 pm. It's at Plum Creek Park in Kent (off Mogadore Road). Bring a labeled item to share, and your dizzyingly delightful personality. And maybe a Frisbee. Oh -- and maybe some musical instruments. Musicians, pack your guitar, banjo, drum, banakula, kazoo, baster, whatever. . .

Tag Sale June 2



The Tag Sale is coming June 2!

Helpers are needed for set up for the Big Tag Sale in Fessenden Hall from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm. Set-up volunteers will be treated to milk & cookies. And maybe coffee. Bring your clean, quality donated items to Fessenden Hall at that time (from 6:00 to 9:00 pm). If you have questions about the suitability of an item for the sale or if you need assistance in getting your items to the church, call Bev. (No clothing or broken appliances, please.)

Helpers are needed from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm. We also need folks to help set up, work during the sale and clean up afterwards. One hour shifts are available.

Sign-up Sheets are available in Fessenden Hall during Coffee Hour – See Bev Cole.

*This space intentionally left blank to promote observation, meditation, and reflection.
Below is a free pass to watch the ants that sculpt your back yard.*



June Church Events

27 May 9:30-11:30 Adult RE (EA) 10:30 One Service only 6-9 Hogwarts mtg. (EA) 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9:00 AA (FH)	28 Memorial Day 7:00 Tai chi No Clan	29 Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	30 9:30 am Yoga 11-12:30 private yoga 4:30-6 private yoga 7-8 Pilates	31 4:30 Yoga 6:30 Yoga	1 June 6-9 Tag Sale setup (FH)	2 9-1 Tag sale, out- side (p. 6)
3 12:30-2:30 Social Justice commit- tee mtg. 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9:00 AA (FH)	4 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:30-8:45 Clan (S)	5 Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	6 9:30 am Yoga 1-3 Praxis mtg. (EA) 7-10 pm Board mtg. (EA)	7 4:30 Yoga 6:30 Yoga	8 Walden PA trip (p. 3)	9 Walden PA trip (p. 3)
10 1-4 pm Church picnic, Plum Creek (p. 6) 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9:00 AA (FH) 7:30 Women's Choir	11 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7-8 Celtic Clan. Tower 43	12 Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 7-9 Our Many Lives (EA)	13 9:30 am Yoga 6-7 rental of Fes- senden? 6 pm Finance mtg. (EA)(p. 3) 7-10 Committee	14 9-4 Hogwarts 4:30 Yoga 6:30 Yoga 7-9 Men's group	15 Newsletter dead- line 9-4 Hogwarts	16 Hogwarts 9:30-2:30 Truth workshop (EA) (p. 4)
17 12:30 Hogwarts concert, awards 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9 AA (FH)	18 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7-8 Celtic Clan (S)	19 Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 7:30-9 CUUPS (art room)(p. 5)	20 9:30 am Yoga	21 4:30 Yoga 6:30 Yoga	22	23
24 Begin one service only 11:45-12 Chat with Board (p. 5) 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9:00 AA (FH)	25 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:00 Clan at Wood- lands	26 Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	27 9:30 am Yoga 6-8 Finance Com- mittee mtg. (EA)	28 4:30 Yoga 6:30 Yoga	29	30

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; L- Library; S-Sanctuary
Calendar does not reflect changes or additions after May 20

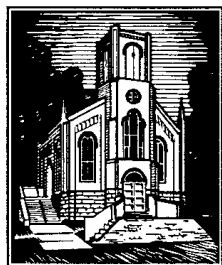
New Calendar System

Since we're now a busier congregation, we've begun using an on-line calendar that you can access directly at www.localendar.com/public/uukent, or through our website at www.kentuu.org. We can update it as often as necessary and you can consult it any time day or night.

Don't have Internet access or really hate computers? Not to worry, paper versions of the same calendar will be available in the weekly *Thread from the Web* and monthly *Chalice Flame* newsletter.

Judy Brannan

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



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Call the office to cancel your *Chalice*
Flame

Out to Lunch Bunch

June 3	El Campesino
June 10	All church picnic
June 17	China City
June 24	On Tap

Book Club Covers Reading

June 12 we will meet at 7 pm at Annie Brightbill's in Stow (off Charring Cross). We will read *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards. This is an auspicious debut novel that revolves around one unfortunate choice made by a man who felt there could be no other outcome to the situation.

On July 10 we will meet at 7 pm at Martha Kluth's in Kent. We will read a book of our choice by Jodi Picoult. The Washington Post reports, "Picoult has become a master-almost a clairvoyant-at targeting hot issues and writing highly readable page-turners about them...It is impossible not to be held spellbound by the way she forces us to think, hard, about right and wrong."

Our Website



If you haven't been there in awhile, take a peek -

<http://www.kentuu.org/>

Mike Plishka is giving it more content and making it more professional every week.

Brad Bolton

UUA General Assembly

With the growth in membership our church is now allowed to send 4 congregation delegates to General Assembly, the annual meeting for our denomination. This year's meeting is in Portland, Oregon starting June 20. Please contact Kathy Kerns by June 5 if you plan to attend GA this year and would like to be an official voting delegate for our congregation.

Kathy Kerns

Celtic Clan

6/4	7:30 pm to 8:45 pm- practice in sanctuary.
6/11	7pm till 8pm- Tower 43, Kent.
6/18	7:30 pm to 8:45 pm- practice in sanctuary.
6/25	7pm to 8pm- Woodlands at Robinson.