



The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent



September 2007

Sunday Services
9:30 & 11:15 (winter)

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The 15th each month



Evangelism and leadership are on my mind. I'll start with the one that is more likely to sound alarm bells. Evangelism is something we don't talk much about in our church and I imagine some people think that is as it should be. Ours is a free faith and we want those who join us to do so freely and fully informed about the rights and responsibilities of membership. We tend to be just as uninterested in converting others (proselytizing) as we are in being converted (proselytized). On that point you will find no disagreement from me.

Evangelism, though, is something different. Evangelism simply means sharing the good news and we do that all the time. We tell people about great books we've read, fabulous movies we've seen, inspiring performances we have gone to and beautiful places we have visited. But how often do we tell people about the wonderful church we attend? I admit that I don't do that very often myself, but I have returned home from my experience at the Unitarian Universalist Leadership Team Institute inspired to renew my efforts. I believe that in Unitarian Universalism I have found very good news, a saving faith for me and for the world. Don't I then have an obligation to share the good that I have found? For me the answer is yes.

If the answer for you is also yes, I invite you to take one small step toward sharing the good news. On Sunday, September 16 our worship service will explore a theology of friendship. If you have a friend who you think might be interested in what we have to offer, I encourage you to invite that person to come to church with you that day. This will be a good chance for your friend to experience for themselves what we are about and they will be made especially welcomed that day. Sunday, September 16 – Bring a Friend Sunday!

Now, on to leadership. In the last year or so a growing number of people from our church have taken advantage of leadership trainings available in the Ohio Meadville District and on the national level of the Unitarian Universalist Association. The energy and enthusiasm generated has led us to want to bring some of what we have learned back home. On Saturday, September 22, we will hold a leadership retreat for all current leaders in our church and all those who think they might be interested in leadership. We will meet from 9:00 am to 3:15 pm (location still to be determined) and lunch and childcare will be provided. Bob Erdman, Renee Zimelis Ruchotzke, Joel Slater and myself are planning an interactive, engaging and fun day of learning and exploration. Committee chairs and members of board-appointed committees are especially encouraged to attend, but all members and friends of the church interested in leadership are welcome.

We will be doing some work with the Myers Briggs Type Indicator in the morning as we explore leadership style differences. If you do not already know your type, we request that you take a short test ahead of time that will generate your type for you. You can find the test at <http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/JTypes1.htm>.

In order to plan for food and childcare, we ask that you register your plans to attend by calling or emailing Judy Brannan in the church office with the number of children you will need care for and any dietary restrictions. Please register by Monday, September 17. Hope to see you there!

In faith,

Melissa

September Sermons

September 2 **Step by Step: UUnion Journeys**

Kathie Slater, Marion Yeagler

As the nation celebrates Labor Day, two UUCK members, Marion Yeagler and Kathie Slater, will share the religious aspects of their labor union experiences.

September 9 **Gathering In**

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Elaine Bowen

The whole church 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 – 9:30 and 11:15.*

September 16 **A Theology of Friendship**

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Kristofer Sperry

Friendships are among the most important relationships in our lives. Why do they matter? How do they call us? Come explore a theology of friendship and bring a friend with you to church!

September 23 **Understanding War. Visualizing Peace.**

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Kathy Walker

The art hanging in our sanctuary this month was collected by Kathy Walker through her academic work exploring what children know about war and peace. Informed by the understanding of children and inspired by Yom Kippur's call to forgiveness, this service will invite us to reconcile and begin again.

September 30 **Envision our Masterpiece. Paint our Canvass.**

Revs. Nancy Arnold and Melissa Carvill-Ziemer

It is an exciting time to be a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent. We are a growing, vital congregation and we have something powerfully important to share. The Rev. Nancy O. Arnold, who just completed thirteen years of service as the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron, will join us this morning to share her picture of what we can become.

Message from the Moderator

This month I thought I would tell you a bit about the work of the Board of Trustees.

The Board meets once a month. The meetings are open to members. Each board member prepares and distributes a report in advance of the meeting detailing the activities in their area (for example, updates from their committees). At the board meeting we focus on those items that need discussion. What do we discuss? Below is a sampling of topics discussed since the new board began in May:

- The Board is responsible for hiring and setting compensation for staff; we approved hiring our current Director of Religious Education and a summer preschool teacher, and reviewed Personnel's recommendations for staff pay for next year
- Church finances: every month we discuss the Treasurer's report of church income and spending; and we have approved some budget line item shifts
- We have made several committee appointments
- We have discussed some church wide events (for example, leadership retreat, potential involvement in church partner program, participation in community events)

- The Board is charged with setting church policy, and one of our goals for the year is to review a church policy manual that was created two years ago. At every meeting we have had some discussion of church policies or procedures (for example, church rental policy, hiring procedures)
- Every month we reflect on a question related to church mission

Although that may look like a somewhat dull list of topics, meetings are actually quite lively and engaging, with all members actively participating in the discussions. I am continually impressed by the thoughtfulness of the conversation as board members listen to one another and work together to discern what they believe is best for our church community.

Feel free to contact me if you ever have questions about the work of the Board.

In faith and fellowship,
Kathy Kerns, Moderator of the Board

Envision our Masterpiece

En-vi-sion - transitive verb.
 Definition: picture something mentally; to form a mental picture of something, typically something that may occur or be possible in the future.

Greetings, everyone, from your 2007-2008 Stewardship Committee. We have been hard at work preparing for the upcoming canvass, which kicks off from the pulpit with a guest minister on Sunday, Sept. 30. The sermon topic will be our stewardship theme: Envision our Masterpiece. Paint our Canvass.

As you may recall, at the annual meeting in May the congregation voted to change the church fiscal year from the current January 1 through December 31 to July 1 through June 30, effective July 1, 2009. On the advice of our District Executive and other wise counsel, we have elected to forego a single yet potentially unwieldy 18 month canvass. Instead, we will conduct this fall's campaign, commencing Sept. 30 and concluding on Oct. 28, to cover fiscal 2008. One year from now, we will run another campaign, a "1/2 campaign," to cover the first six months of 2009. Finally, in 2009, we will be on our new calendar and anticipate a spring 2009, to cover fiscal year 2009-2010!

Many of you have wondered, will our church EVER again hold a POT LUCK in Fessenden Hall after a second service? Well, in response to your hue and cry, your Stewardship team will host a canvass kick-off potluck after the second service on Sept. 30. In addition to the delightfully unpredictable cuisine, thematically-correct canvass campaign entertainment and activities will be provided! So, mark your calendars and look for additional details about this event! We hope to see you there!

As part of the canvass, there will be numerous opportunities throughout the month of October to socialize and share your vision for our congregation's future. If you would like to host such an event (breakfast, lunch, dinner, afternoon tea, other: you pick!) please contact Linda Mishler. If you would like to attend one of these gatherings, well, it's too early to sign up, but look for more details in the upcoming weeks!

Finally, we would like to thank the numerous individuals who have already offered their time, talent and enthusiastic support to our committee. Would you like to help? Contact a committee member: Chris Hurlbut, Linda Mishler, Kathy Walker, and Marion Yeagler.

Paint our Canvass.

Finance Report

Hello from the Treasurer's Corner. This month I want to talk about how we are doing financially. The General Fund, which is the account that pays all the bills, is at \$12,975.00. This is a vast improvement over last year. Our pledges are at approximately 54% which is about where we need to be for this time of year. Remember, even though you are reading this in September, these figures are based on late July numbers because of the newsletter deadline. I want to extend a big thank you to all the members and friends of our congregation. It is due to your diligence in paying your pledges that we are in such a good place financially. If you are interested in financial reports, you can find them attached with the Board minutes which are kept in Founder's Lounge. And now a word from our Financial Trustee, Beth Wills....

Hello, Beth Wills here. You may not realize that planning next year's budget has already started! Susan Goekler, chair of the Finance Committee, has spent the last few weeks asking for budget requests from the many committees and groups active in our church. On August 15, the Finance Committee met and put all these requests, along with wage and salary recommendations from the Personnel Committee, into a draft "dream" budget. The numbers from this draft budget are then turned over to the Stewardship Committee, who use them to help plan their campaign. When we have final numbers from Stewardship, we go back to the table and finalize the budget - hopefully without doing too much cutting! This final budget will be submitted to the Board for its blessing, before being presented to the congregation at the December manual meeting for your approval.

One of the things we're doing differently with our budget this year is not including a line item for fundraising. We will still have service auction, we will still sell Acme Bucks, but we will not be doing bake sales and concerts to pay the phone bill. Instead, fundraising will be for fun things - special projects, new fixtures or furniture for the church, even a scholarship fund of our own for Summer Institute.

Which brings me to my last tidbit for this month's news... Fundraising Chair Bev Cole and I are planning to do some special fundraising this winter and next spring to support the impromptu and unofficial, yet steadily gaining momentum, "Take 100 People to SI" campaign. For those of you who are not familiar with SI, it is a fabulous week-long summer camp for UU's held at Kenyon College. For those of you who are - let's commit to bringing more of our friends for this wonderful experience.

See you in church! - *Beth Wills, Beth Straubhaar*

Service Auction is Coming

Planning for UUCK's annual Service Auction is well under way. The big night is Saturday, November 3rd, and our theme is "An Evening in Wonderland!" We are looking forward to a fabulous time! We are especially excited to have our own youth participating in the planning and have happily turned over the decorating to them. (Someone even mentioned costumes!) Donations are already coming in from local – and not-so-local! – businesses: Lasso the Moon, Malley's Chocolates, Carousel Dinner Theater, Great Wolf Lodge, the Cleveland Browns...As always, though, our best items come from you. Can you give lessons in foreign languages, sewing, or playing an instrument? Do you have a favorite meal you love to prepare? Services such as lawn care, house cleaning, or babysitting you can offer? Artwork you can donate? These all bring big money once Denny Eberhart gets his golden gavel going!

We also need volunteers to help with organizing donations, contacting businesses, food, decorations, setup, tear down, and a variety of other things.

So – mark your calendars, plan your donations, and start saving your allowance for that enchanted Evening in Wonderland! Any questions can be directed to Bev Cole or Beth Wills. Volunteer positions are still available!



Taste and Tell Fundraiser

Calling all cooks!!! Friday September 28, UUC Kent will be hosting an extraordinary culinary delight! We need your best recipes and we need YOU to prepare them for us that day. You will need to prepare your dish to serve 10-15 people. We need every imaginable course – from appetizer to dessert – with the recipe.

Calling all of you who like to eat!!!! On the night of September 28, the rest of you will be able to purchase a ticket to this hopefully-first-annual event and enjoy a wonderful meal and leave with a cookbook full of the recipes you just "Tasted". Tickets will be on sale during coffee hour in August and September. Please call Linda for more information.

The secretary will be out of the office from September 12th through the 19th.

The RE Committee is "doing it"!

Come and work with the RE committee and you will have an understanding of the Chinese Proverb, Those who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it.

And doing it they are! The task was set to find teachers, religious educators, to honor the spirit of our youth. 4 religious educators for each class. A total of 24 individuals to step up, plan lessons, and rekindle (if necessary) a sense of wonder and adventure. In one month's time, 21 such persons have agreed to enter a world of wonder with our youth.

RE committee members "are doing it"!

The community members of UUCK "are doing it"!

In addition, the RE committee is now operating out of a portfolio concept. 6 portfolios have been identified and it is through these 6 lenses that committee member view the work of the whole. This enriches our ability to serve. They "are doing it"!

Youth, youth advisors, RE committee members and more have been planning the bridging ceremony to recognize the transitions to middle school and from middle school to high school. They "are doing it"!

In July, I attended UULTI (UU leadership training institute) in which 4 UU districts came together to help UU leadership grow. I met folks from NYC, all over PA, NJ and more. Conversations were bursting with ideas, hopes, and action plans. They "are doing it"!

I met with OWL leaders in our congregation. I experience their commitment and passion for our youth and the OWL program. They "are doing it"!

On October 6th, Karen Lapidus, Program Consultant for Lifespan Faith Development (OMD), will lead a DRE start-up for UUCK. The start up will honor what is being done and help identify opportunities for growth and further enhancement.

We are doing it!

In joy - Diana VanWinkle

Do you love your pet?

If you are anything like me, you've got tons of photos of / with your pet! I need them for an upcoming service, so send your favorites to Lori. Please limit your submissions to three per family / pet, all types of animals are welcome. Thanks so much! *Lori McGee*

Small Group Ministry Update

The members of the Small Group Ministry Steering Committee – Christie Anderson (Chair), Elaine Bowen, Rod Mishler, and I (Kristina Spaude) as well as Melissa Carvill-Ziemer – are all so excited about this coming year's Small Group Ministry program. This last year was the first full year that the program ran, from about November through June for most of the groups. We've reviewed the surveys and reflected on our experiences and those of the groups as a whole, and we are confident that SGM has been a wonderful success in so many ways. There were, of course, some problems and challenges that arose, but we are so grateful to all the participants who have (and may continue!) to provide us with feedback, suggestions, comments, and reflections. We hope that this year will be another year of spiritual growth and deepening for all who participate.

For anyone and everyone interested - past participants and newer explorers - there will be two drop-in sessions held in September. These sessions will provide you with a sample of what you might get to experience over the course of the year with your own Small Group Ministry. We will introduce the structure of the sessions, take on one of the topics for discussion, and go through the session as if we were part of a Small Group Ministry together. If you have any questions about what the sessions will be like, what kinds of topics will be available for discussion, or have any other questions, comments, or concerns about the program, we would welcome those as well at this time.

A registration table will also be set up on two Sundays in September, where brochures will be available that describe the program and have registration forms to fill out (so that we know when you are available to meet with a group, if there are particular needs that should be addressed, etc.). These forms can be filled out at the church or taken home and returned to any member of the Steering Committee.

- The drop-in sessions will be held on Thursday, Sept 6th, from 7.00p-9.00p & Sunday, Sept 9th, from 1.00p-3.00p (to be confirmed)
- Registration forms will be available before & after the services on Sun, Sept 9th & 16th*

If you have any questions, comments, concerns, suggestions, or just a desire to talk about the program in another way, please see any member of the Steering Committee. We want to help make this year even greater for participants and can only learn how by reflecting on the feedback we receive.

In faith and fellowship,
Christie, Elaine, Rod, Melissa, and Kristina

Hartville's Migrant Workers - a Presentation

Please join the UUCK Social Justice Committee and Portage Area Coalition for Sanctuary on Friday, Sept 14th at 7.00p, when we are featuring the presentation of David Hassler and Gary Harwood's work with the Hartville community's migrant workers. The following is taken from their website:

When photographer Gary Harwood first received permission to photograph the migrant workers at the K. W. Zellers and Son, Inc., family farm in Hartville, Ohio, during the summer of 2001, he anticipated that he would be documenting hardship. Migrant workers continually face difficult conditions while trying to support themselves and their families. Farm work is physical, hot, and dirty. The days in the fields are long and exhausting. Growers can be brutal employers, and there is no shortage of documented cases of terrible living and working conditions.

In Hartville, however, Gary found a different story.

Here the workers and their families live in a strong, tightly knit community supported by the Hartville Migrant Center and many caring neighbors. About 70 percent of the workers return annually to this small northeastern Ohio town where they have established solid friendships and stable lives.

In 2004 writer David Hassler began collaborating with Gary on this documentary project. That spring, when the workers returned to the farm, David began interviewing the migrants as well as community members and volunteers at the Center. Working from the transcripts of his interviews, David wrote first-person narratives that speak with the voices of the people themselves.

Growing Season portrays the life of a community rich in social capital and gives voice in a new way to a group of people largely unseen and misunderstood. Our hope is that these portraits—in pictures and words—will deepen others' understanding of the migrant experience and perhaps offer an important contribution to the ongoing dialogue about migrant labor and immigration laws.

Gary Harwood and David Hassler, September 2006
(<http://www.growingseason.net/intro.htm>)

Laughter Yoga

This fun session, held Saturday, August 26 11-12 noon in Fessenden Hall, is FREE. Donations are accepted for church rental. Appropriate for everyone. Bring your friends and family; the more the merrier.

Heidi Shaffer

Meeting for parents of RE students

Important information to all parents of students enrolled in religious education classes at the Church: you are invited to attend the "Religious Education Start-Up" meeting. The meeting will be held from 9:00 - 1:30 on October 6th, and lunch will be provided. Child care will also be provided.

Karen Lapidus the district consultant for religious education will be joining Diana VanWinkle to both review the religious education program and to answer any questions you may have.

If you are planning on attending this meeting please rsvp to Judy Brannan the Church Secretary. Or you can call the Church at: 330-673-4247. Please let her know how many in your family are coming, and how many will need child-care. If you have any further questions please contact me: Joel Slater.

Joel Slater, Trustee for Programming

Understanding War, Visualizing Peace

Following the services on Sunday, September 23, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM, you are invited to attend a Kent community open house for an exhibit of children's drawings on display in the church sanctuary September 8 - September 29. For this exhibit, Dr. Kathy Walker and her research partners asked children, ages 3 to 18, living in Ohio, Northern Ireland, and Israel to draw pictures of war and peace. Approximately 30 drawings were selected for the exhibit, first shown in 2005 at Kent State's annual Symposium on Democracy. After a brief introduction to the art work, participants attending the open house will contribute to a dialogue inspired by children's understanding of peace and war.

Kathy Walker

Fall Chancel Decorations

We would like a few volunteers for preparing the sanctuary for the fall season. We're looking toward the week of September 1-8. This will take only an hour or so out of your busy schedule.

Also, for those of you planning to donate flowers in memoriam or in honorarium, if you would think in terms of a potted fall flowering plant or a potted green plant, we would appreciate adding it to the fall-going-into winter theme.

Questions? Please contact Linda Mishler or Paulette Thurman.

Greeters Needed

Calling all friends and members, old and new!!

There currently exists a bit of a shortage in the Sunday greeter/usher ranks. We lost a few volunteers to more pressing assignments, and need to increase the rolls.

Don't be intimidated by the job; it's a good opportunity to meet people as well as provide a vital service to the church. The training only takes about 15 minutes and the commitment is only for about one Sunday every month or so. The more volunteers we have, the fewer times we need to serve. We particularly could use more greeters at the second service. So, if you attend second service, please consider volunteering.

Families of every description are also encouraged to try greeting as a unit. We would love to see you all together as a group.

So, give it a try!! You might like it! All you need is a friendly smile and a good attitude!

If you think you might like to help, please contact Marion Yeagler.

Where's Walden in the Fall?

Would you like to participate in our intergenerational activity that returns through Nature to our transcendentalist heritage? Yes? Then this Fall's Walden trip is for you.

Theme: Pilgrimage in Nature

Dates: Friday October 5th through Sunday October 7th, 2007

Site: Chapman State Park, Pennsylvania

We shall be taking the traditional Fall camping trip, this time to Chapman State Park, near Hearts Content in the Allegheny National Forest. One alternative activity will be hiking the 7-8 miles from the Park to Heart's Content, the site of a very special old growth forest of white pine and fir. We all plan to meet there for what is truly a sacred experience. Chapman State Park has a lake for canoeing and numerous shorter hiking trails. The trip will take about 3 ½ hours from Kent. Look for the in-service flyer and sign up in Fessenden Hall!



Our Social Justice Work

There are seven principles that Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote: (1) the inherent worth and dignity of every person; (2) justice, equity and compassion in human relations; (3) acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations; (4) a free and responsible search for truth and meaning; (5) the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large; (6) the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; (7) respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Social justice is integral to our faith and to our work as a religious community. It is about change, improvement, speaking truth to power, living our words. I am humbled by the passion and integrity of Susan B. Anthony's words: "I pray every single second of my life; not on my knees, but with my work." She may have been a Quaker, but she captured the truth and essence of the UU experience.

The cause of social justice drives me from deep within. There may well always be work to be done, but that will not stop me for a moment from doing everything I can to make change. Two hands make for a courageous start; one voice will make a powerful solo. Imagine what two hundred hands and one hundred voices could achieve. We can affect so much by coming together and working for a world that comes that much closer to the one envisioned by our Seven Principles.

Meditation Group at Church

We meet Wednesday evenings from 7-8 PM in Fessenden Hall. Boost your meditative practice by sitting with supportive community for shared practice!

We will check in briefly, share a reading, meditate for 20-30 minutes, and close with brief sharing. Although this is not a "class", beginners are welcome and will receive some suggestions for meditation at the start of the meeting.

Contacts: Trish McLoughlin, Susanna Smart, Dianne Lenihan, Hal Walker.

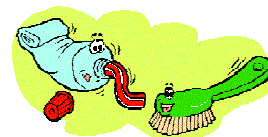
Bring: Items for your comfort (blanket, pillow), and your Beginner's Mind. (Your choice to sit in chair or on floor, or to recline.)

I want to say thank you to all of you who take part in this cause – by bringing in food and other donations for Kent Social Services and the County Clothing Center, raising awareness about so many different issues, protesting the ongoing war in Iraq and embracing the efforts of peace-making – all of those who do works great and small, within the church community and outside of it.

So many give generously for the designated Special Collections every month, and I am thrilled to announce that the May collection for Center of Hope was \$614.50, the June collection for the UU Ministry for Earth was \$494, the July collection for the County Clothing Center was \$420, and the August collection for SPAN Ohio was \$702.12.

This year feels like it will be one of great change. There is much work to be done, many activities to be planned, many needs to be addressed and prioritized. If you are moved to the work of social justice, we gladly and gratefully welcome your involvement and participation. For questions, comments, suggestions, concerns, random musings, inspired thoughts, or any other feedback, any member of the Social Justice Committee would be happy to lend an ear.

In peace and love, *kristina spaude* :)



What Food Stamps Cannot Buy

The Ohio Direction card (aka Food Stamps) cannot be used to purchase inedible items such as paper goods, personal hygiene products or household chemicals (soaps/cleaners). This September, let's help out Kent Social Services clients who need these items as well as food donations.

As you do your shopping, please consider picking up an extra bottle of dish or laundry soap, bar soap, toothpaste, deodorant, toilet or facial tissue, paper towels, food wraps, trash bags and the like. Baskets are located on both levels of the church: an oval wicker one opposite the elevator on the ground floor and the blue basket outside the sanctuary near the membership table.

Thank you for your continued generosity and care for the greater Kent community.

Elaine Yehle Bowen

Adult Religious Exploration for Fall 2007

Adult Religious Explorations meets during first service (9:30m to 10:30am) on Sundays. It involves introduction to a topic by a speaker or speakers and a majority of time for discussion among participants.

This Fall's Topic: Our Chosen Faith

What is Unitarian Universalism about? What does it mean for me? What are the sources of our living tradition? These are questions for new members and friends and long-time UUers. Two significant people in our movement: Forrest Church and John Buhrens have explored these questions, by examining the sources of our faith. We shall be studying their book *Our Chosen Faith*, with one week on each of the sources they discuss. Introductions to each source will be made by congregation members considering what that source means to them. Copies of the book can be bought or borrowed from Mac Goekler. It is not expensive. Come to one or all sessions!

September 9th Introduction
 September 16th Direct Experience
 September 23rd Prophetic Women and Men
 September 30th Wisdom From World's Religions
 October 7th Jewish and Christian Heritage
 October 14th Reason and Science
 October 21st Earth-based Sources

CUUPS Meeting

Greetings everyone and a blessed Mabon to you. This month's CUUPS meeting will be Tuesday, September 18, 6 PM, at the home of Colleen Norris. We will be celebrating our 1 year anniversary with a special circle, and we will plan our meetings for the upcoming year. Pagan 101 Classes will begin in October, and we will talk about upcoming plans for services, and other CUUPS sponsored events. CUUPS is open to anyone interested in earth based religions. Please join us as we plan another exciting year!

Please Leave the Church Clean

Please keep in mind that it is not the job of our sexton to clean up after church functions. We have been lax in this, and the church has picked up the slack. Please budget for or take a collection for clean up - cost is \$15 per hour. Contact Pam if you feel you will be needing extra help.

Linda Mishler, Kathie Slater

Northeast Ohio Cluster Picnic at Urban Hope

Save the date of Sunday September 16 for a NE Ohio Cluster picnic at Urban Hope. This will be held Sunday afternoon in their community garden. Bring a dish to share. Look for more details later.

Ya just never know what will come out of a little discussion: At SI this year and last year, we set up "Information Sharing" sessions where anyone interested in a topic could attend and just have an informal discussion on topics such as Fund Raising, RE, Leadership Issues, or SI issues. Both years we had good idea exchanges, involving churches from all over the district and people from our congregation.

At one of these sessions we got talking about what could be done in the way of a fun social event to get people from nearby churches together to have conversations like we were having at SI: Getting to know people from other churches in a fun relaxing atmosphere. An idea was to hold a picnic for people involved with all UU churches in NE Ohio.

The above announcement is a direct result of that conversation. Amazing what a little discussion among people from different churches can create.

Feel free to talk to Liz Erickson, who is involved with Urban Hope, or me about this. We would like to see a number Kent folks there. It should be fun.

Bob Erdman

September Congregation Information Meeting

September 26th at 7 pm in the sanctuary is our next congregational meeting! The agenda is: the Partner Church Program, Fair Share Compensation, the Canvass Campaign, and Mission / Vision / Covenant. Please bring your comments, questions and ideas. See you then!

Lori McGee

Building Your Own Theology III

Ultimately, we are all theologians. The third class of this series of four is tentatively set to begin on Tuesday September 18, at 7:00 in the annex. The first two sessions focused on credo-development, while this session invites us to learn how to use our "Moral Compass", and live a more informed understanding of our individual ethics and how they apply in life.

If you have an interest, or need more information, please call Linda Mishler.

September Church Events

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|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| 26 1-4 Picnic at Plum Creek 4-6 Yoga 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9:00 AA (FH) | 27 10:15a Gentle yoga 5:15 Gentle yoga 7-8:30 Tai chi 7:30 - Celtic Clan @ Longmeadow | 28 Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga | 29 9:30 Yoga 6:30 RE teacher orientation 7-8 Meditation (FH) (p 7) 8-10 Summer Singers | 30 10:15 Yoga 5:30 Yoga 7-9 High School RE teachers mtg. | 31 | 1 |
| 2 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9:00 AA (FH) | 3 10:15a gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi | 4 Thread/Web deadline 9-12p Campus Ministers (FH) 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga | 5 9a Staff Retreat 9:30a Yoga 1-3p Praxis mtg. (EA) 7-8 Meditation (FH) 8-10 Summer Singers | 6 10:15 Yoga 5:30 Yoga | 7 | 8 6-9p Movie: War Made Easy (S) |
| 9 Two services return 9:30 Service 11:15 Service 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9:00 AA (FH) | 10 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:30 Clan @ Loy- alton | 11 Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 7-9p Our Many Lives (EA) 7:00 Book Group | 12 9:30 am Yoga 7-8 Meditation (FH) 7:15-10:15 Board mtg. (EA) | 13 10:15 Yoga 5:30 Yoga 7-9 Men's Group (EA) | 14 7:00p Hassler/ Har- wood slide show (p 5) | 15 Newsletter dead- line 8-5p OMD presi- dents mtg. (church) |
| 16 Bring a Friend Sunday (p 1) 12-2:30 Social Justice mtg. (EA) 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9 AA (FH) | 17 Registration dead- line for leader- ship retreat (p 1) 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7-8 Clan- KHC | 18 Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 7-9 BYOT (EA) (p 8) | 19 9:30 am Yoga 7-8 Meditation (FH) | 20 10:15 Yoga 5:30 Yoga | 21 | 22 9-3p Leadership retreat (p 1) |
| 23 1-3p Children's Pictures of War (S) (p 6) 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9:00 AA (FH) | 24 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:30 Clan | 25 Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga | 26 9:30 am Yoga 7-8 Meditation (FH) 7-8 Congregation info mtg. (p 8) | 27 10:15 Yoga 5:30 Yoga | 28 6-9p Taste & Tell (p 4) | 29 |
| 30 Church Canvass Campaign (p 3) 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9:00 AA (FH) | 1 Church Canvass Campaign 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga | 2 Church Canvass Cam- paign 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 7-9 BYOT | 3 Church Canvass Cam- paign 9:30a Yoga 1-3p Praxis mtg. (EA) 6-8 Finance mtg. (EA) 7-8 Meditation (FH) | 4 Church Canvass Campaign 10:15 Yoga 5:30 Yoga | 5 Church Canvass Campaign Walden weekend trip starts (p 6) 7-10 Social Justice - Global Warming | 6 Church Canvass Campaign 9a-1:30p DRE Startup |

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 August 21

A complete and up-to-date church calendar can be viewed at <http://www.localendar.com/public/uukent>
or through a link on our website at www.uukent.org.

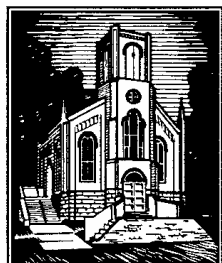
Kent UU Library Bound For Opening

As we move toward the fall and our opening date of October 21, we have been busy on a variety of projects. We have worked with Beth Wills to set up a system for donating money to the library. Lynn Kindsvatter has created a form for individuals to list books they wish to donate or to suggest titles they would like the library to buy. This has been made available in the lobby. We are grateful to have received donations of books from several individuals. We have been looking through these and have been entering

some of them in our catalog. In the next month we plan to spend some of the startup money we have received for new books. We have been working on planning for shelving to be added to the room. A name is still needed for the new library. Contact Sally Burnell, Lynn Kindsvatter, Peggy Parkinson, Missy O'Hara, or Martha Kluth if you have a suggestion. We plan to open the library with an event on Sunday, October 21.

Martha Kluth

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



Return Service Requested
Return Postage Guaranteed

Call the office to cancel your *Chalice Flame*

Out to Lunch Bunch

Come join other UUs for a Dutch treat lunch and lively conversation after second service. All are welcome.

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| September 2 | China City |
| September 9 | On Tap |
| September 16 | China City |
| September 23 | El Campesino |
| September 30 | China City |

Book Club

On Tuesday, September 11, we will meet at 7 pm at the home of Kathie Slater, 740 Governor's Circle in Kent. We will each share a book from our summer reading.

Celtic Clan

| | |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| 9/3/07 | No practice |
| 9/10/07 | 7PM to 8PM Loyalton at Ravenna |
| 9/17/07 | 7PM Kent Health Care Center |
| 9/24/07 | 7:30 to 8:45 Practice in Sanctuary |

Covenanting, Mission Renewal and Visioning

During the 2007-08 church year, our congregation will engage in the important work of covenanting, mission renewal, and visioning. Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend. Lunch and childcare will be provided. All sessions will be from 12:30-3:00 p.m. in Fessenden Hall. Watch for more details and sign-up information in upcoming newsletters and the Thread from the Web.

Sunday, October 14 – Congregational Covenanting, Part I
Sunday, November 11 – Congregational Covenanting, Part II
Sunday, January 27 – Congregational Mission Renewal, Part I
Sunday, February 24 – Congregational Mission Renewal, Part II
Sunday, March 9 – Congregational Visioning, Part I
Sunday, April 13 – Congregational Visioning, Part II

Choir Rehearsals Return

I am excited to announce that Sunday Night Choir Rehearsals will begin on **Sunday, Sept 16th, from 6:30-7:45.**

The mission of the choir is to build community and create real beauty. We'd love it if you'd join us! Consider giving it a try for a few weeks to see if you enjoy it.

We are especially interested in adding some men.

Hal Walker