



The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

April 2008

Sunday Services
9:30 and 11:15

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Newsletter editor:

Brad Bolton
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Deadline:

The 15th each month

There are good things happening at our church. All year we have been engaged in a process of discernment and I sense that we are on the cusp of new clarity. We began by reflecting on the values and commitments we share. We delved deeply into questions about our identity and purpose. In open congregational conversations, we endeavored to name what it is we want to promise to one another (covenant) and to declare our reason for being a church (mission). Each session began with a shared meal, featuring good food generously prepared by Elaine and Bill Bowen. Each session ended with a meeting of the Master Plan Committee (Rhonda Richardson, Jane Krimmer, Bill Eldredge and Mary Lou Holly) who, along with input from me and members of the Committee on Ministry (Kim Marfy, Kathie Slater, Jay Grech and Saul Flanner) endeavored to synthesize our reflections into concise, inspiring statements.

We planned to share those statements with you during the worship service that was scheduled for March 9 and to consider them together during the visioning workshop that was to be held after the service. Due to the amazing snowstorm that buried us in our homes, we rescheduled that service and workshop for Sunday, March 30. The drafts of our covenant and mission statements will likely change again after that workshop, but I want to share them with you now anyway because I think they are an inspiring work in progress.

Draft of our Covenant

We affirm that each life is brilliant and, when joined with others in joyful community, has the power to transform. We pledge ourselves and our resources to this journey.

This covenant inspires and challenges us to dwell together in right relationship. We promise to extend hospitality, nurture intergenerational community, support one another's spiritual growth, honor our diversity, resolve conflict respectfully, and practice kindness.

Draft of our Mission

Through spirited worship and open-minded religious exploration, we inspire one another to live loving lives of meaning and purpose. We are caring, justice-seeking, peace-making stewards of the earth.

These statements strike me as rich and deep while also open. They are theological statements, evocative of our history and reflective of our current diversity. They are anthropological statements, suggestive of our view of human nature. And they are sociological statements, indicative of who we are and what we cherish about this religious community.

During the course of April you will have an opportunity to engage with the revisions of these statements and with the draft of the statement reflecting our shared vision. We intend to bring finalized drafts to the congregation for adoption at our May annual meeting. I hope that when you vote you will know that your voice has been a part of the conversation. And I hope that these statements will be living documents, guiding us and directing us as we move together into a future filled with possibility.

In faith,

April Sermons

March 30 *Willing to Be Changed (rescheduled from early March)*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Lori McGee

What do you envision? The poet Rainer Maria Rilke suggests that our visions change us, even when we cannot fully grasp them; even when we do not fully realize them. This morning we will explore the power of naming, the risk of daring and the promise of dreaming.

April 6 *Gay Men and The Church*

Jamie Goodwin and Worship Associate Marion Yeagler

We as Unitarian Universalists are in the forefront of welcoming gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and queer people into our churches and yet the numbers of gay men continue to be small. In this service we will explore what we offer and what we can improve to reach out to the community of gay men. Jamie is a member of the UU Church of Akron and a Guest in Your Pulpit volunteer of the Ohio Meadville District. He has been leading and assisting in worship for several years, is the past coordinator of Akron's Worship Committee, and was a member of small team that began a non-traditional service at Akron. Jamie lives in Akron with his partner Rich, Rich's mother, and two noisy schnauzers.

April 13 *God's Absence (rescheduled from March)*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Lori McGee

We often celebrate the fact that Unitarian Universalism has room enough for theists and atheists alike. What does it mean for our spiritual lives when what we know most of God is absence?

April 20 *A Cup of Hope*

Renee Zimelis Ruchotzke and the Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer

We will explore some of the themes of Passover, including community, hospitality, and hope. The student ministry transition committee will also be honored for their work during this service.

After the second service, all are invited to participate in a family friendly Passover Seder hosted by Lonnie Hawks, Nancy Barbour and Melissa Carvill-Ziemer. Each individual or family will be asked to bring a particular item to share. Look for sign up sheets and recipes in Fessenden Hall in early April.

April 27 *Ethical Eating for the Earth*

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Ted Voneida

Come and celebrate Earth Day with us! Listen to joyous music, sing praises, consider how our everyday food choices impact the planet we love and taste the flavor of the earth.

After the second service, all are invited to participate in a family friendly Earth Day Luncheon. Each individual or family is asked to bring a dish to share. Here is the challenge: each dish should feature locally grown food. If you can't find locally grown for a particular ingredient, see if you can find it organically grown further away. At the luncheon, everyone will have a chance to share the story of their dish.

Talent Show!!

Friday night April 25 7-9:00. Come one, Come all! This is a fundraiser and a FUN-raiser. If you have a talent, please contact Linda Mishler or Saunis Parsons, for more information and an application. Deadline for applications will be April 15.



Altar Flowers

There is a sign-up sheet for altar flowers near the visitor's table. Anyone may donate altar flowers or decorations to the church for any occasion. You may honor someone, some thing, some time, or not honor anything.

The "chancel pod" of the art and decoration committee always appreciates donations for flowers as well. Please contact Paulette or Linda with any questions about altar flowers or the sanctuary art and decorations in general.

Message from the Moderator

When you hear the word “leader”, what characteristics come to mind? Decision maker. Motivator. Organizer. Keeper of the vision. Leaders do these things, but they also listen to others’ opinions, work toward consensus, and model cooperation and commitment. At one conference I attended, they said the important role of leaders is not to decide alone the direction to take or how to solve every problem, but to pose the questions that will help the organization move forward. Thus, while leaders do have to make sure that certain specific tasks get done, they don’t have to know all the answers. (A comforting thought to those in leadership!)

UU churches are lay led and it requires many volunteers to carry out the programs of the church. We welcome having more members involved in leadership, and it’s OK to volunteer (we don’t always know who to ask!). If you are thinking about becoming more involved at church there is upcoming opportunities nearby for leadership training. The Ohio Meadville District is sponsoring a one day conference on congregational leadership. The workshop is lead by our district executive, Rev. Joan Van Becelaere, who has expertise in leadership development. The closest location for us is scheduled on 5/17 at the UU church of Blanchard Valley (Findlay, OH). The \$20 registration fee includes lunch. You can obtain more information about the conference through the OMD website (ohiomeadville.org) or from a member of our lay leader development team: Rhonda Richardson, Trish McLough-

lin, and Kay Clatterbuck. Members of the lay leader team may also be able to help you identify others who are going if you want to carpool.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the leaders who are (in my opinion) the unsung heroes of our congregation: the committee chairs and coordinators. They organize and facilitate much of the work that keeps things operating smoothly at church. Without them, many activities would never happen. We owe a debt of gratitude to all who have served during the last few months. Although space precludes detailing each person’s role and contributions, let’s thank them (listed in alphabetical order; my apologies if I have missed anyone): Christie Anderson, Carole Beatty, Elaine Bowen, Brad Bolton, Kay Clatterbuck, Bev Cole, Bob Erdman, Liz Erickson, Esther Duncan, Saul Flanner, Mac Goekler, Susan Goekler, Dan Hayes, Chris Hurlbut, Mary Leeson, Gina Maida, Kim Marfy, Linda Mishler, Mike Plishka, Rhonda Richardson, Heidi Shaffer, Kathie Slater, Brad Slease, Joanne Slease, Susan Smith, Bethany Snyder, Kristina Spaude, Laura Teagle, and Paulette Thurman.

If you would like to become more involved in leadership at church, either periodically helping out or making an ongoing commitment, please feel free to contact me or any other member of the Board of Trustees. We may be able to help you find your place in serving the church.

In faith, *Kathy Kerns, Moderator*



Busy Bees at Church Library

The Library Task Force has been busy cataloging donated books. Andrew Bores has been producing the catalog cards and the catalog.

In Our Own Best Interest: How Defending Human Rights Benefits Us All by Willaim F. Schulz is the library book we are reviewing this month. Schultz was a former minister of our church who visited with us in the fall of 2006, At the time of the writing of this book, he was the executive director of Amnesty International. In this insightful work the author tells compelling stories of people from all continents which clearly delineate the connection between U.S. prosperity and human rights violations throughout the globe.

Library Task Force

“Ask Me” Name Tags

You may have noticed a few people with "Ask Me" on their name tags. These are members of our Membership team, and are always happy to answer any questions about the life and work of our church.

OMD Summer Institute

Planning for Ohio-Meadville (OMD) Summer Institute 2008 at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, is in full swing. Theme speaker Meg Barnhouse is set to wow the Unitarian Universalist crowds that are expected to converge on tiny Gambier, Ohio, from July 13-19. This year, in a push to make SI a "greener" event and to help our budget, we will be posting the Summer Institute brochure on www.OMDSI.org and on www.ohiomeadville.org. If you are willing to read the brochure online and not get the expensive paper copy via snail mail this year please e-mail us at omdsi2008@gmail.com

Dave Murray, SI 08 Chair

Circle Suppers

First Circle Supper - May 3.

Circle Suppers are pot-luck dinners held in someone's home whose purpose is to extend your circle of friends in the Kent UU congregation. People eat, drink, have a good time, and converse on all sorts of random topics from art to zoology. The composition of the group varies each time, and no two dinner parties have the same guest lists or conversations.

A Google search of Circle Suppers reveals that they are primarily a UU phenomenon. They are now being started at the Kent UU Church by two members who are new to this congregation but longtime UU's.

You can sign up by filling out the form on the right and putting it in the large envelope in by the coffee window by APRIL 20TH. More info is also located there. Alternatively email me by the deadline.

After you sign up the organizers will organize the hosts and guests. The hosts will be notified of their guests. It is their job to then contact each guest with directions and to organize the dinner by assigning a dish (e.g. appetizers, dessert). The guests bring themselves and the dish, whether homemade or bought.

Mark DeBruin and Sarah Jordan



UU's in Business

Are you a UU involved in business? Are you interested in networking with, sharing with, and learning from other UU's who are also in business?

I would like to propose that we begin a "UU's in business" group. My thought is that anyone who runs a business, is, was, or would like to be actively involved in one, or anyone else who would like to discuss our lives as UU's and as business people might be interested.

I could see us not only becoming a group for discussion, but also for action, if we so choose. Oh, the places we could go!

At this time no decisions have been made. If you are interested, please email Kristofer Sperry with your thoughts and we will see if we can gather some momentum.

<i>Circle Suppers Registration Form</i>	
Name(s):	
Number of adults attending: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adults Only <input type="checkbox"/> Intergenerational <input type="checkbox"/> Either	
<input type="checkbox"/> Newer Member <input type="checkbox"/> Longtime Member <input type="checkbox"/> Friend	
Number of kids attending and ages: _____	
Mailing Address:	
Phone Number:	
E-mail:	
Best to contact by:	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Email
Please check below if:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am willing to host
	How many can you host?
Food allergies? (describe)	
Transportation issues? (describe)	
Dietary restrictions? (ex. Vegan)	
Other issues? (please describe)	

OMD District Executive Moves

The Ohio-Meadville District Executive, Rev. Joan Van Becelaere, moved March 8 to a new office located in Lewis Center, OH, across the street from the North UU Congregation. Her new contact information is:
 Rev. Joan Van Becelaere
 1539 Franklin Street
 Lewis Center, OH 43035

Celtic Clan
4/7/08 7pm Tower 43
4/14/08 7pm Loyaltan at Ravenna
4/21/08 7pm Haven Homes Stow
4/28/08 7pm Stow Glen Assisted Living

Unleash your Inner Leader

We and most churches have a lot of people who could be leaders and would be very good at it, but aren't really sure what is involved, or what is expected, and so the leader in them remains hidden. Or maybe you have been on committees, have some good ideas, but assume that you are the new person on the committee, and you would not be able to lead it. In fact leaders are really people who care, and will do something about it. They just need a few tools. And we need good leaders in our churches. In recognition that we have many "closet leaders", our district has put together a 1-day workshop for new and potential leaders. It addresses the tools leaders use, some myths about leadership, and provides a much better understanding of how churches do [or should] work.

Unlike most Lay Leadership courses, this will be presented on 3 different Saturdays, so everyone has an opportunity to attend: April 19 at Meadville PA, April 26 in Marietta OH, and May 17 in Findlay OH. There are posters up in the church. You can sign up on line at <http://www.ohiomeadville.org/conference/leaderconf08.html>; click on the date and location that suits you to register. Or call the OMD office at 740-252-5980 to register. Sign up more than one week ahead of the conference and the cost is only \$20...if that's a problem see Rhonda Richardson or anyone on our UUCK Lay Leader Development team. See me if you have any questions on the course.

Bob Erdman: Chair, OMD Leadership Development Team

Book Club News

We will meet at the Church Library on Tuesday, April 8 at 7 pm. We will read a non-fiction historical book of our choice to share with the group. All are welcome.

UU Niagara Experience

Come experience the wonder of Niagara Falls including some great educational opportunities while being taken care of like royalty. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four day UU Niagara Experience from July 20-23. Encounter the Falls up close from every perspective and explore the rich history and natural beauty around the Falls. For information visit our web site : <http://www.uunex.net/>

Non-UU's are also welcome !

Our Whole Lives Offered

The Our Whole Lives (OWL) program for 7th- 9th graders will be offered again for the academic year 2008-2009, beginning in September. OWL is intended to give participants the skills and knowledge they need to make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It will equip participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. OWL provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but is designed to help participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality.

Parents of 7th- 9th graders are encouraged to contact Diana VanWinkle, RE Director, and let her know by April 30th if they have a child who may be interested in participating. Those who have expressed an interest in the program will receive a letter of introduction from the OWL teachers in May. Parent involvement is a critical component of the OWL program, and a parent orientation will be scheduled for early August. The first of 27 sessions of OWL will begin in September. If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to contact one of the four OWL teachers, Kat Holtz, Kathy Walker, Fred Smith, and Saul Flanner.

Newsletter Article Deadlines

You all know that articles are due by the 15th of the month, but -

- You can be late a day or so if necessary.
- Small changes to articles can be made up to the 21st of the month.

Brad Bolton

Got Lay-Led Service Ideas?

There will be a short meeting regarding lay-led services on April 6 at 10:45 and after 2nd service. This meeting, rescheduled from March, will be useful to those interested in leading services and those with topics of interest. If you have ideas for services, or feel called to participate in a lay-led service, please attend. We will meet in the middle RE room upstairs. For more information please contact Bob Erdman or Linda Mishler. Hope to see you there!

February Financial Corner

	REVENUES	EXPENDITURES	REVENUES LESS EXP.
FEBRUARY ACTUAL:	\$13072	\$17836	-\$4764
MONTHLY PLAN:	\$13533	\$20572	-\$7039
YEAR-TO-DATE FEB:	\$39536	\$33567	\$5969
YEAR-TO-DATE PLAN:	\$35885	\$38357	-\$2472

We were expecting to use \$2472 of cash reserves by the end of February, but because year-to-date revenues were better than plan and expenditures below plan, we did not need to do this.

We reviewed detailed accounting for 2007, and found some anomalies; it looks like 2007 was still an excellent year, but net revenues less expenditures will be about \$20,000 instead of about \$30,000. More details later as we complete our review.

The summer slump is built into our monthly plan for the year. As you can see above, in February expenditures exceeded revenues, but by less than the amount planned, and revenues were below our monthly plan. January was good enough that our year-to-date situation is still fine. As I indicated earlier, our monthly plan shows that we expect to be fine for the year, but there WILL be a cash flow problem during the summer months. Since most of our expenses are for salary and essentials, such as utilities and the mortgage, we cannot do much to change expenses. Revenues, which are primarily pledge income, can help the cash flow problem. Here is how you can help:

- Pay your pledge sooner.
- If you pledged annually, try to pay the entire pledge before June or July.
- If you pledged monthly, consider overpaying until October, then underpaying.
- If you pledged weekly, consider increasing [doubling?] your payments through the summer. Pay less per week late in the year, or nothing once your pledge is met.
- Consider monthly automatic payments: this can be arranged through your bank. Your payments continue even when you are traveling or on vacation. Contact me for more info.
- Get involved in fund-raising activities: Sandy Bowers and Colleen Norris are our new Fund-Raising Co-chairs and are looking for good ideas and good people to implement these ideas. Work with them to develop ideas for and get involved in some fun fund-raisers.

The line-by-line financial details are available with the Board documents. Feel free to contact me anytime with specific questions, or any ideas you have to improve our financial operations. I'll be happy to discuss things with you.

Bob Erdman, Trustee for Finance

Congregation Meeting Schedule

- Annual Congregational **Discussion** Meeting: **May 10** at 7:00
- Annual Congregational **Voting** Meeting, **May 11** at 10:45

Agenda for Voting Meeting: By-Law Revisions, Elections, Mission/Vision/Covenant, and Health Care Resolution.

Lori McGee

Out to Lunch Bunch

All are welcome to join with other UUs for a Dutch-treat lunch and lively conversation following each second service in April at China City in University Plaza.

UUCA Greene Faire

The Unitarian-Universalist Church of Akron presents our 3rd annual Interdependence Day service and Green Faire Sunday, April 27 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Visitors are also invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall immediately after the 10:30 a.m. service for food, music, children's activities, shopping, and a gathering of exciting "green" visitors to our church.

Also visit the UUCA book table, view short movies, learn about our Green Sanctuary program and the UUGro organic food co-op, and take a birding class and walk on our church grounds! So much fun! So much to do and learn! Join us April 27 and plan to stay and enjoy it all!

Lay Leader Development

Are you a newer member looking for ways to become more involved in church activities? Are you an established member looking for opportunities to develop your leadership gifts?

The Board of Trustees has established a lay leader development team to establish priorities and administer budgeted funds for lay leader development. As we transition to a mid-size church, our top priority for 2008 is to expand the number of potential leaders in our congregation.

Applications for funding are now available on the information table in the Founders Lounge.

Consider attending one of the following:

Ohio-Meadville District Leadership Workshop - 3 dates and locations to choose from:

April 19: UU Church of Meadville, 346 Chestnut St., Meadville, PA 16335

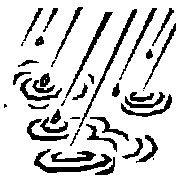
April 26: First UU Society of Marietta, 232 Third St, Marietta, OH 45750

May 17: UU Church of Blanchard Valley, 1016 Tiffin Ave. (rear), Findlay, OH 45849

Workshops run 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Register from 8:30 to 9:00 am. Cost is \$20 per person, including lunch and snacks. Information and registration forms available at: www.ohiomeadville.org/conference/leaderconf08.html

Contact a member of the lay leader development team (below) if you have questions or if you hear of any other interesting leadership development opportunities.

Rhonda Richardson
Kay Clatterbuck
Trish McLoughlin



Book Sale Blowout

The annual book sale from 3/8 to 3/16 brought in \$300! As planned, the general fund of UUCK will receive half and the remainder will be sent to "First Book - Portage County" to help provide books for children in need.

We could not have done it without the many volunteer sorters, donors and customers who helped make it a success in spite of the snow! Thanks also to the Meditation Group who kindly relocated on sorting night and the Kent Yoga Center for sharing space and for shopping. Start saving books again for next year!

In appreciation, *Elaine Bowen, Sandy Bowers*

East Shore DRE Opening

East Shore Unitarian Universalist Church in Kirtland, OH is searching for a Director of Religious Education. The contract will begin July 1, 2008 at 25 hours per week. Compensation will be according to UUA guidelines. To see the full job posting, visit - http://www.eastshore.org/DRE_JobPosting.pdf or call the church office for more information at 440-256-3400. Applications are due March 31st.

The Four Spiritualities: a Journey Revisited

Adult Religious Explorations Spring 2008

Back by popular demand, the Adult Exploration team will again present "*The Four Spiritualities*", based on the book by former Kent UU minister, Rev. Peter Richardson. Richardson shows how Jungian personality types (known as Myers-Briggs Personality Types) shape and form our spiritual paths. He describes four paths that are part of every religious tradition. Those of us who have taken this course before can attest how valuable it has been to our own spiritual development and to our interactions with others. We shall also include some companion work developed by other users of Myers-Briggs. This is a great way to better understand ourselves and others in a strictly non-judgmental way. You may purchase Richardson's book from the UUA Bookstore for \$18.95 or use handouts supplied during class. Plan to join us for any or all sessions during first service on Sundays.

Where? Eldredge Annex, next to the church

When? 9:30 am to 10:30 am (during first service)

Topics:

March 30 Introduction

April 6 Alphabet Soup -- Myers-Briggs Personality Typing Pairs

April 13 Journey of Unity

April 20 Journey of Devotion

April 27 Journey of Works

May 4 Journey of Harmony

May 11 Grids -- How does this all fit together

May 18 Now What? -- Putting all of this into practice
Liz Erickson

Wooster OH Church Honored as UUA BreakThrough Congregation

The UUA's Growth Team has chosen the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County (UUFWC, Wooster, OH) as a **2008 BreakThrough Congregation**. This is the first continental BreakThrough Congregation from the Ohio-Meadville District. After receiving congratulatory phone calls from UUA President Bill Sinkford and other UUA staff, Rev. Elaine Strawn, UUFWC's minister, commented: "It's rather like The Christmas Carol...except with angels rather than ghosts!" UUFWC will be recognized at the 2008 General Assembly.

UUFWC was chosen, in part, for its practice of radical hospitality and steady growth. In the past 10 years UUFWC has grown from 64 to over 150 members. Many have commented on their friendly web site and welcoming parking lot with large signs marking reserved places for Sunday Visitors. Visitors are welcomed by trained Greeters and families with children are taken on a tour of the religious education classes. The Membership Committee hosts a number of events designed to help long-term members and new folks get to know one another.

The twenty-member choir serves as an ambassador to smaller UU congregations in the area and to community events such as the annual community Martin Luther King, Jr. service. Their Coffeehouse events and annual Madrigal Dinner are focused on outreach to the community. The congregation has been experimenting with different outreach methods to the local college campus student body.

A visible sign of the congregation's commitment to social justice is their new building (Oct. 2005) which meets LEEDs [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] highest standards. The congregation is the first church building in the United States to meet Gold Certified LEED environmental standards.

The congregation has become a center for social justice work in the region. A number of regional social justice groups have had their start within UUFWC. The congregation does not shy away from controversy and has a history of publicly standing up for its Unitarian Universalist values.

The congregation also practices an expanding culture of generosity. The Board regularly presents budgets which challenge the congregation and its commitment to programming, outreach and maintaining a welcoming, hospitable congregational home. Since its founding in 1972, the UUFWC has consistently been a Fair Share congregation at both the district and UUA levels.

The OMD is very proud of its first BreakThrough Congregation. Rev. Joan Van Becelaere, OMD District Executive, said "UUFWC may be the first BreakThrough Congregation in the OMD, but it will not be the last!"

Thanks, Beth Casebolt, District Administrator
Ohio Meadville District

Covenant, Mission, Vision

Draft statements of covenant, mission and vision will be disseminated during the month of April. Please look for these in the weekly Thread from the Web, on church bulletin boards, and at committee meetings and discussion groups. The Master Plan Committee values your feedback and wants to hear from you! In these statements of promise, purpose and vision, what resonates with you? What, if anything, is missing?

Please respond in writing or in person to any of the following members of the Master Plan Committee or to our minister, Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer.

Rhonda Richardson
Mary Lou Holly
Jane Krimmer
Bill Eldredge

Interested in joining a group?

Want to join a committee? Come to the "Life of the Church", a four part series of classes developed to explain in detail how the many committees and arms of the church work. Not just for newcomers, it should be fun. The class will be held during the second service at 11:15 in the annex. You do not have to attend every session.

- April 13- Intro to Committees & how to Join: (Religious Education, Sunday Program, Music, Art & Deco, Hogwarts.
- April 20- Communications & Ask it Basket: (Newsletter, Website, Publicity, Library)
- April 27- Fellowship/Finance: (Volunteers, Social, Membership, Stewardship Fundraising)
- May 4- Spiritual: (Small Group Ministry, Living from the Heart, Worship Associates)

Each session will afford ample time for questions.

Linda Mishler

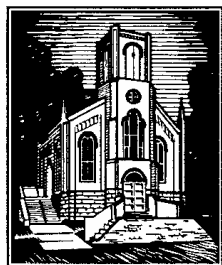
April Church Events

30 9:30-11a Adult RE (EA)(p 7) 10:45 Sacred Circle (N) 12:30-3 Congregation Visioning (FH) 1-3 SGM (EA) 4-5:30 R&R Yoga (FH) 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9 AA (FH) 7:45-8:45 Women's Choir	31 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7-9:00 Nominating Comm. (EA) 7:30 Clan rehearse	1 Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 7-8:00 Master Plan (EA)	2 9:30a Yoga 7-8 Meditation (FH)	3 10:15a Yoga 5:30 Yoga 7-9:00 Pastoral Associates	4	5 10a-12 Chakra workshop (FH)
6 9:30-11a Adult RE (EA)(p 7) 10:45 Sacred Circle (N) 10:45 Lay service mtg. (RE)(p 2) 12:15 Lay service mtg. (RE)(p 2) 12:30-2:30 Program Comm. (RE) 12:30-2:30 Social Justice mtg. (FH) 1-3 SGM (EA) 4-5:30 R&R Yoga (FH) 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9 AA (FH) 7:45-8:45 Women's Choir	7 10:15a gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:00 Clan- Tower 43	8 Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 7-9 Our Many Lives (EA) 7-9:30 Book Group (L) (p 5)	9 9:30a Yoga 7-8 Meditation (FH) 7:15 Board Mtg. (EA)	10 10:15a Yoga 5:30 Yoga 7-9 Men's group (EA)	11	12 10a-12 Chakra workshop (FH)
13 9:30-11a Adult RE (EA) 10:45 Sacred Circle (N) 10:45 Coffee Chat w/ Board 11:15 Life of Church (EA)(p 2) 1-3 Financial mtg. (EA) 4-5:30 R&R Yoga (FH) 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9 AA (FH) 7:45-8:45 Women's Choir	14 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7-8 Clan- Loyalton	15 Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	16 9:30a Yoga 7-8 Meditation (FH)	17 10:15a Yoga 5:30 Yoga	18	19 10a-12 Chakra workshop (FH)
20 9:30-11a Adult RE (EA) 10:45 Sacred Circle (N) 11:15 Life of Church (EA)(p 2) 12:15-3:45 Fessenden/kitchen in use 12:45-3:15 Seder (F) 1-3:00 SGM (EA) 4-5:30 R&R Yoga (FH) 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9 AA (FH) 7:45-8:45 Women's Choir	21 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7-8 Clan- Haven Homes	22 Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 7-9:00 Living by Heart (FL)	23 9:30a Yoga 7-8 Meditation (FH) 7-9:00 Living by Heart (FL)	24 10:15a Yoga 5:30 Yoga	25 7-9:00 Talent Show (S)(p 5)	26 10a-12 Chakra workshop (FH)
27 9:30-11a Adult RE (EA) 10:45 Sacred Circle (N) 11:15 Life of the Church (EA)(p 2) 12:45 Earth Day Lunch (FH) 1-3 Financial mtg. (EA) 4-5:30 R&R Yoga (FH) 6:30 Adult Choir (S) 7-9 AA (FH) 7:45-8:45 Women's Choir	28 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:00 Clan- Stow Glen	29 Thread/Web deadline 5:15 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	30 9:30a Yoga 7-8 Meditation (FH)	1 10:15a Yoga 5:30 Yoga 7-9:00 Worship Ass. (EA)	2	3 10a-12 Chakra workshop (FH) 6-9:00 Circle Supper (p 4)

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; N- Nursery
 Calendar does not reflect changes or additions after March 22

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.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent
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Enrichment, Hospitality and Being Radical

Recently, I attended my FIRST Curriculum Fair. Each year the OMD Lifespan Faith Development Committee offers a curriculum fair for the district. This year's theme was "Radical Hospitality for Lifespan Faith Development."

Panels, morning and afternoon workshops, lunch table topics, and the O-MD curriculum library were all parts of the day. People came from West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. To explore what it means to be radically hospitable in our Unitarian Universalist Churches and their RE programs.

Hospitality is something we hear about in UU circles and maybe the word could be described as a "buzz word or phrase". Yet, what does it mean for religious exploration in Kent, Ohio? Renee Ruchotzke, Jennifer Hakko, Heather Dinklage-Travis, Rev. Lynn Kerr, Lucy Carney, and Karen Lapidis were all present to aid the participants on our journey regarding Radical Hospitality.

The American Heritage dictionary defines radical as fundamental, basic, departing markedly from the usual. Hospitality is defined in the same dictionary as cordial and generous reception of guest.

Clearly, this is more than smiling and saying hello in pass-

ing to those whose face may or may not be familiar to us. Yet, what does it mean?

Radical hospitality, as described by Renee Ruchotzke, is -

- Inclusion vs. exclusion (how do we invite others in?)
- Being counted on to care (how will others know we care?)
- A spiritual practice (each person is a gift)
- An ethical issue
- A process, not an event, although it encompasses events

Radical hospitality calls us to examine our assumptions and to look at our actions and beliefs.

What are our assumptions about ourselves, our church home and religious education? Do our actions match our beliefs? Do our beliefs and actions match flow so well that we have become unwillingly rigid and enclosed so those are beliefs are unchanging?

I invite you into the practice of Radical Hospitality. I invite you on a journey full of anticipation of what each new person we meet will bring into our lives. I invite you to be enriched while being Radically Hospitable.

Thank you for gifting me,
Diana VanWinkle