

The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ken

October 2008

Sunday Services 9:30 and 11:15

228 Gougler Ave. Kent, Ohio 44240 Phone: 330-673-4247 Fax: 330-677-4772 www.kentuu.org uukent@sbcglobal.net

Minister:

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

Minister's office hours: Tuesday - Friday By appointment

Office Manager:
Judy Brannan
Office hours:
Mon. through Fri. 9 - 1:30

Religious Ed. Director:
Diana VanWinkle
dre-uukent@sbcglobal.net
Office hours:
Tuesday by appointment

Music Director: Hal Walker



Newsletter editor:
Brad Bolton
bbolton@neo.rr.com
Deadline:

The 15th each month

First dark earth, rich and ready, then the seeds and water and sun. Soon the roots, and tender green reaching up. In time, if we are lucky, magic.

Broccoli, peas and purple pole beans, rows of sweet corn and stalks of Brussels sprouts, eggplant, chard and a rainbow of tomatoes: Green Zebra, Cherokee Purple, Red Plum, Snow White.

We have tasted the harvest, savored the warm fruit fresh from the vine. Now we preserve it for the cold days ahead. I walk into October with arms full of summer.

This has been a new experience for me. We didn't preserve our food growing up. I didn't meet anyone who did until the time when I worked on a farm as a young adult. But after I read Barbara Kingsolver's book *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* last winter, I knew that I was going to learn something new.

My partner's family did freeze when she was young, so I appointed her navigator. We got books, purchased a freezer, bought a canning kettle and began. When we get stuck we call her parents or consult the internet. When we get tired of standing on our feet for all the sorting and washing and cutting and peeling and blanching and rinsing we remember why this matters.

Throughout the winter and into the spring we will eat the riches of summer, sustainably grown and harvested, by our own hands and by the hands of the people in our community. We will reduce our impact on the earth, requiring fewer fossil fuels with each and every meal. We will save some money but more importantly, we will nurture our bodies and our spirits with food we know we can feel good about.

This whole process has been a revelation for me. It has taken a lot of time, more time than I anticipated. But as I watch the contents in the freezer rise and the shelves of the basement fill with dilled beans and rich tomato sauce, I know that I am abundantly blessed.

However the harvest is coming to its fullness in your own lives, may it be a blessing.

In faith,

Melissa

October Sermons

October 1 - Wednesday eve Spirited Vespers for All Ages

5:45 simple dinner

6:30 service led by Diana Van Winkle, Director of Religious Education and the Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer Come and enjoy, explore, share and experience the diverse ways in which Unitarian Universalists experience being family. Families with children and youth are especially encouraged to attend.

October 5 The Mysterium Tremendum of Yom Kippur

Rabbi David Horowitz and Worship Associate Christie Anderson

The service will reflect the theme of Yom Kippur, the Jewish observance of atonement which begins on Oct. 8th. Rabbi Horowitz will provide insights on how Unitarian Universalists can find meaning in the ancient wisdom of Yom Kippur's call for soul-searching and repentance.

October 12 Profession of Faith

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Marion Yeagler

On this Sunday as we come to the end of our series inspired by the pillars of Islam, we will explore the one that comes first – the confession of faith. We will also celebrate Association Sunday this morning, which is an opportunity for us to reflect upon our Unitarian Universalist connections both near and far.

October 15 - Wednesday eve Vespers for Renewal and Restoration

7:00 service led by Christie Anderson, Worship Associate

7:30 social time with light snacks

"Reflections on Lakes" will be a meditative service intended to evoke memories of experiences at lakes and ponds through the use of sound and guided imagery to stimulate the senses.

October 19 Finding Hope, Finding a Way

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Lori McGee

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This morning we will celebrate the strength and the courage of those who struggle to find hope and a way to a life lived free from violence. Safer Futures is our local shelter for women and shelter who are fleeing violent homes. We invite you to bring toiletries to church with you this morning to be donated to Safer Futures. Safer Futures is currently in need of toilet paper, paper towels, deodorant and feminine products - although anything is appreciated.

October 26 A Great Cloud of Witnesses

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Elaine Bowen

Each of us has inherited a great cloud of witnesses - our physical and spiritual ancestors, the people who have made our own lives possible, the ones we have loved and lost. This morning we will honor and remember our beloved dead. Please bring a photograph or some object that reminds you of the person or people you want to remember with you to church to share on our altar of memory.

Our Minister's Travel Days

I will be out of the office attending the Ohio Meadville District Unitarian Universalist Minister's Retreat September 29 through midday October 1. I will be away Friday October 24-25 co-leading a workshop entitled "Transforming Our Whiteness" for the Joseph Priestly District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. From October 30 to November 4 I will be taking some vacation days to spend time with family.

Reverend Carvill-Ziemer



Moderator's Message

On August 22 the Board held an evening retreat at the old jailhouse in Kent. Our focus for the retreat was "becoming a visioning Board." This theme seemed appropriate to me for several reasons: 1) results of a systems inventory completed by Board members last Spring indicated that on a continuum between practicalities and vision our work has been heavily weighted towards the former; 2) 3-4 hour Board meetings had become the norm at our church; and 3) in May, the congregation approved new statements of mission and vision.

Facilitators for the Board retreat were Rev. Kathleen Rolenz, co-minister of the West Shore Unitarian-Universalist Church and Ms. Karen Kircher, immediate past-president of the West Shore UU Church Board. They shared with us their church's journey through the transition from a managerial to a policy model of governance. They conveyed to us that Boards can't do it all; we can't be the managers and vision casters at the same time. They emphasized that true "Board work" includes tasks such as stewardship of the mission and vision of the church, defining and monitoring how the Board governs itself, maintenance of the financial integrity of the church, and creation of policies that define the roles of volunteer and professional "staff". They recommended that in order to undertake this work, the Board must learn to delegate authority appropriately. They helped us envision possibilities for a

Service Auction Delayed

Due to an unforeseen conflict with the UUA's Tents of Hope weekend in Washington, D.C., the Service Auction has been pushed back a week. The new date is November 15. All other details remain the same. We have already received an impressive amount of donations from local businesses and are looking forward to seeing what YOU can donate! Donation forms will be available at coffee hour beginning October 5th, or for an electronic copy just contact me. *Beth Wills*



Social Justice Meeting

Social Justice committee meeting – Sunday, October 5 after church in Fessenden Hall. Bring a brown bag lunch. If you plan to attend and want child care, please contact Susan Goekler sgoekler@neo.rr.com at least 1 week in advance.

new model of UUCK Board functioning that has the potential to make Board membership more appealing to more congregants.

Based on what we learned from our retreat facilitators, the Board has established the following goals for the 2008-09 church year:

- Reduce minutiae at Board meetings
- Clarify lines of responsibility and authority (Board, Minister, councils, committees)
- Study policy governance (books, videos, consultant, Wooster exec team)
- Study size transitions (pastoral to programming)

These goals, along with a focus on mission and vision, will guide my work in establishing Board meeting agendas throughout this church year.

If you want to see your Board in action, please know that Board meetings are open to the public. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Annex. If you would like some time to address the Board, please notify me at least one week in advance. Board meeting minutes are available in a binder in the Founders Lounge. Church policies are available in the copy/mail room of the Annex.

In faith, fellowship, and shared leadership, Rhonda Richardson, Moderator

Quest to Save the Injured Unicorn

We will be entering the Forbidden Forest again to rescue the injured unicorn. We need all Kent Hogwarts wizards nine years old or older for this quest. This adventure will take place on Friday, October 24th. We will assemble in the Towner's Wood Park parking lot and leave for the quest at 6:30 pm. If we all work together we will find and rescue the injured unicorn in about an hour. There will be a special Kent Hogwarts parents tailgate party in the parking lot while we are questing. Your parents will have to sign a permission slip -- available from our Minister of Education -- Diana Van Winkle (her other job is Kent UU Director of Religious Education). We will go questing unless thunderstorms are in the area. Please contact Prof. Dazzleswift or Prof. Dumbledore by Oct. 12th, if you are willing to help us find the unicorn -- please understand that it just might get scary in the Forbidden Forest (that is why its Forbidden!!).

R. Dumbledore (Mac Goekler)

A New Year for Religious Education

What a wonderful start to the 2008 - 2009 children and youth religious education year. Please remember the following:

- Nursery is offered for infants, toddlers and children up to 3 years of age. *Children over 3 years old are not permitted in the nursery*.
- Children and youth 3rd grade and up participate in the worship service EVERY Sunday for the first 15 minutes. Please have your children join you in the sanctuary for time to worship together.
- All RE classes run 15 minutes past the worship hour.
- Spirit Play class (4yrs 2nd grade) meets at 9:30am. *Children go directly to class.*
- Holidays and Holy Days group (3rd, 4th, and 5th grades) meets during the first service 9:30am 10:45 *Children worship with families first 15 minutes of service and then go to class.*
- Neighboring Faiths group (middle school) meets during the second service 11:15 12:30. *Youth worship with families first 15 minutes of service and then go to class.*
- High School class meets during second service 11:15
 12:30. Youth worship with families first 15 minutes of service and then go to class.

Have you completed your GREEN FORM? All children and youth participating in RE and nursery need to have a Registration form completed. See classroom teachers or the DRE for a form!

Thank you to the families, individuals, children and youth who participate and give support to the ministry involving religious education the children and youth. They are an amazing group.

Peace- *Diana VanWinkle*, Director of Religious Education



Election Night Dinner

Reviving a UU Church of Kent Tradition from the last century – ELECTION NIGHT DINNER. Watch the Thread for more details.

Save the Date: Tuesday, November 5. 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. dinner. Stay longer to watch the returns come in.

Domestic Violence Awareness

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Rev. Carvill-Ziemer and I will have a service on October 19th that address this topic and honors those whose have suffered violence in their lives. You will have an opportunity to participate as well by taking part in The Clothesline Project. According to clotheslineproject.org, "The Clothesline Project is a visual display of shirts with graphic messages and illustrations that have been designed by women survivors of violence or by someone who loves a woman who has been killed. The purpose of the Project is to increase awareness of the impact of violence against women, to celebrate a woman's strength to survive and to provide another avenue for her to courageously break the silence that often surrounds her experience." On 9/28, 10/5, and 10/12 there will be a table in Fessenden Hall where you will be able to create a shirt (on paper) to honor someone in your life that has been affected by violence of any kind. There will be instructions and supplies provided at the table. Please consider participating in this important and powerful project that will later become a part of the October 19th service.

More information on The Clothesline Project - www.clotheslineproject.org

In faith, Lori McGee

Holly Pirsig collecting seeds at the church picnic



Michael Pollan Speaks

Michael Pollan, author of <u>The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals</u>, one of the inspirations for Melissa's Earth Day service on local, sustainable food, will be speaking at Oberlin College on Tuesday, October 28th, at 8:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. If you're interested in carpooling or caravanning to see him, contact Beth Wills.

Kiya Heartwood

Kiya Heartwood will be our special guest the weekend of November 1 & 2, 2008. For those of you who did not have the pleasure of hearing her at Summer Institute this past summer, Kiya is a partner in the group A Wishing Chair. She is also the life partner of Meg Barnhouse.

Since 1995, Kiya has made an art of inspiring performances and award winning songs. Her songs are a passionate mix of intelligent lyrics & spell-binding storytelling, all rolled into a folk & rock sound. Her guitar work compliments her amazing wide open vocals. Kiya has been said to seduce the listener with soulful confessions, political broadside, and a wicked groove.

A Wishing Chair has released 8 CDs, the latest of which appeared last July. Titled Folk and Roll (#7), it was recorded live in Austin Texas. Their 6th CD, Underdog, was awarded Best New Folk CD of 2006 by JP Folks, an Indie organization of over 40,000 music industry professionals.

Kiya will appear in concert on Saturday November 1 at 7:30 in the Sanctuary. Tickets are \$10 and will go on sale during coffee hour October 12.

She will also be our guest in the pulpit on Sunday November 2.

Linda Mishler

Saul Flanner at his and Kathy's "Confessions of a Copy Store Jesus" sermon



Library Book Review

The Church Library has recently purchased a book of interest. So Help Me God: The Founding Fathers and the First Great Battle Over Church and State is by Forrest Church. Church is minister of All Souls Unitarian-Universalist Church in New York City and a well-known author and figure in our church.

Today's dispute over the line between church and state is neither the first nor the fiercest in our history. In a powerful retelling of the birth of the American body politic, Church describes our first great culture war—a tumultuous yet nearly forgotten conflict that raged from George Washington's presidency to James Monroe's.

Congregational Information Meeting

Mark your calendar! There will be a congregational information meeting on Wednesday, October 15 at 8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Agenda items will include: financial update; stewardship campaign results and summary of the newly-approved child and youth protection policy. This is an opportunity to gather information, ask questions, and offer comments and discussion. All members and friends are invited and encouraged to attend. Free child care will be provided; please contact the church office at least one week in advance to reserve child care space.

Sunday Forum

The Adult Religious Exploration Committee is sponsoring a series of discussion forums for the month of October on the topic RELIGION AND POLITICS. Issues of church and state, of free speech, and of tax exemption are all important today, regardless of party affiliation. Come to any or all of the sessions to talk and listen as we all share our insights.

Discussions will take place in the ELDREDGE ANNEX, 9:30 to 10:30 am, during first service. The dates and topics are -

October 4	Separation of church and state: the history
October 11	First amendment and tax exemption
October 18	Global attitudes to church and state
October 25	Religion in today's politics

Lecture Series at West Shore Unitarian

"Liberal Religious Values and the American Political System", a lecture series throughout October, features a number of specialists speaking on this topic. Also included is an all-day workshop by Paul Loeb, Social Activist and Author. For a brochure of the event, go to http://www.wsuuc.org/. The series appears on the right side of their home page.

Brad Bolton

Books for Library

Discover what books we would like to buy for the church library by clicking on the library link at our church website. We would appreciate any gifts of either books or of money with which to buy them. Please contact the chair of our Library Task Force, Lynn Kinsvatter if you can help with this.

Martha Kluth

Financial Corner

]	REVENUES	EXPENDITURES	REVENUES-EXP
AUGUST ACTUAL:	\$11567	\$16161	-\$4594
MONTHLY PLAN:	\$11163	\$16348	-\$5185
YEAR-TO-AUGUST ACTUAL:	\$128530	\$130264	-\$1724
YEAR-TO-AUGUST PLAN:	\$124698	\$138720	-\$14022
YEAR-TO-JULY ACTUAL:	\$116972	\$114103	\$2869
YEAR-TO-JULY PLAN:	\$113535	\$122372	-\$8837

The YTD numbers for July that appeared in the September Newsletter were the same as those for June in the August Newsletter. Obviously this is in error. Sorry about that. The corrected July YTD numbers are above. Accounting numbers and Board reports are correct. I just copied the numbers incorrectly late at night for the Newsletter.

We continued to do well vs. our monthly plan in August. Revenues were slightly above plan, and Expenditures slightly below plan. Year-to-date we are significantly above plan, and we did not have to use any cash reserves in August. The monthly plan indicated we might have to use over \$5000 of cash reserves in August.

In September, based on our historical 'summer slump', we planned a significant increase in pledge income as people return. If this happens, we will continue to do well compared to plan.

The pledging process going on now is not only an opportunity for you to share your plans for contributions during January through June of 2009 with us, so we can complete 2009 financial plans for the church. It is also an opportunity for you to update us on changes in your status, address, phone number or email. We can handle any set of giving and communicating arrangements, but we want to



know how you want the church to list your name[s] in Contribution Reports, and which phone and email you want the church to use to communicate with you. If your arrangements change and you want a different name on your Contribution Report, or separate Contribution Reports, this is not a problem; just send me an email or a letter addressed to the church stating the date of the effective change and we will update the information and provide Contribution Reports in accordance with your wishes. We want to respect your wishes for how you want the church to address and communicate with you.

Some Children and Youth are making contributions in the envelopes provided in the pews. They will get their own Contribution Reports. We think this is great! Keep it up, kids.

Contact me any time you have questions on church financial matters, or on the Contribution Reports you will be getting next month.

Thanks again for your financial support of the church, and for keeping us on plan for the year.

Bob Erdman, Trustee for Finance

As of this printing – we have received pledges from about 2/3 of our members. We have \$69,100 in confirmed pledges and we are aiming for \$97,500.

Linda Mishler

New Ways to Pledge

You can have your pledge funds electronically transferred from your bank to us? More of us are choosing this way of making our financial commitment. To find out how to do this, please contact our Trustee of finance – Bob Erdman.

You can also ask your company to match your contribution to the church if they offer matching charitable contributions.

October Church Events

28 10:30-11:30 Pancake Breakfast <i>FH</i> 12:15-1:15 Pancakes, 2nd seating <i>FH</i> 4-5:30 R&R Yoga 6:30-7:30 Adult Choir <i>S</i> 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:30 Clan practice	30 Thread/Web dead- line 5:30 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	1 9:30a Yoga 5:00 Vespers setup FH 5:45 Vespers dinner FH 6:30 Vespers S 7-10 COM EA	2 10:15a Yoga 5:30 Yoga 6-6:45 Meditation FL 7:30-9:30 Chakra Yoga FH	3	4 8a-1:00 New U Class <i>EA</i>
5 12:30 Social Justice FH p3 3-5:00 Winter Institute mtg. EA 4-5:30 Yoga /meditation 6:30-7:30 Adult choir 7-9 AA FH	6 10:15a gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7-8:00 Clan prac- tice	7 Thread/Web dead- line 5:30 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 7-9:00 Our Many Lives EA	8 9:30a Yoga 7-9:30 Board mtg. <i>EA</i>	9 10:15a Yoga 5:30 Yoga 6-6:45 Meditation <i>FL</i> 7-9:00 Men's group <i>EA</i> 7:30-9:30 Chakra Yoga <i>FH</i>	10 7-8:30 Prenatal Yoga	11 7-10 rental <i>FH</i>
4-5:30 Yoga /meditation 6:30-7:30 Adult Choir S 7-9 AA FH	13 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7-8:00 Clan Kent practice	14 Thread/Web dead- line 5:30 Mod. Yoga 6:30-8:30 RE com- mittee 7:00 Challenging Yoga	Thread/Web deadline 9:30a Yoga 7:00 Vespers S 8-10:00 Congrega- tional mtg. S p5	16 10:15a Yoga 5:30 Yoga 6-6:45 Meditation <i>FL</i> 7:30-9:30 Chakra Yoga <i>FH</i>	7-8:30 Prenatal Yoga	18
19 4-5:30 Yoga /meditation 6:30-7:30 Adult Choir S 7-9 AA FH	20 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:30 Clan 4 Seasons	Thread/Web dead- line 5:30 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga	9:30a Yoga 7-9 Living By Heart FL	23 10:15a Yoga 5:30 Yoga 6-6:45 Meditation <i>FL</i> 7-9:00 Capital Campaign <i>EA</i> 7:30-9:30 Chakra Yoga <i>FH</i>	24 6:30 Hogwarts in Forest 7-8:30 Prenatal Yoga	25 6-10:00 Youth Haunted House
26 10:30-11:30 Pancake Breakfast FH 12:15-1:15 Pancakes, 2nd seating FH 4-5:30 Yoga /meditation 6:30-7:30 Adult Choir S 7-9 AA FH	27 10:15 am gentle Yoga 5:15 gentle Yoga 7:00 Tai chi 7:30 Clan Haven Homes	28 Thread/Web dead- line 5:30 Mod. Yoga 7:00 Challenging Yoga 7-9:00 Living By Heart FL	9:30a Yoga 6:30-9:30 Finance Comm. EA	30 10:15a Yoga 5:30 Yoga 6-6:45 Meditation <i>FL</i> 7:30-9:30 Chakra Yoga <i>FH</i>	4-6:00 Annex Consult room in use	7:30 Kiya Heart- wood concert <i>p5</i>

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 September 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.

Sermons and Minutes Available

Some of Rev. Melissa Carvill-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.

You can listen to and download selected past services at the church website, www.kentuu.org Recordings of recent complete sermons are available in the library on a shelf next to the door. A signout sheet can be found there, also.

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

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



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Celtic Clan

10/6/08 7:30pm to 8:45pm- Practice in sanctuary 11/13/08 7:30pm to 8:45pm- Practice in sanctuary 11/20/08 7pm till 8pm- Four Seasons Kent 11/27/08 7pm till 8pm- Haven Homes Stow



Book Club Gatherings

On Tuesday, October 14, we will meet at Annie Brightbill's at 6 pm. Details and directions may be obtained from Martha Kluth. We will read Gardens of Water by Alan Drew. This novel is about the life of a family in Turkey about 10 years ago. It deals with the interaction of different cultures and difficulties faced by the family.

On Tuesday, November 11, at 7 pm we will meet at the home of Betty Kendrick. We will read Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson. This describes Mortenson's dangerous and difficult quest to build schools in the wildest parts of Pakistan and Afganistan.

Dutch-treat Lunch

This is an open invitation to join with other UUs for lunch and conversation after the 2nd service every week except when there is a pancake breakfast or other food event at the church. We meet at China City, which is located in University Plaza, south on Rt. 43. This is a chance to reflect on that morning's service – or anything else that a group of UUs might come up with! For more information contact Susan Goekler.

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