

Welcome
to C-F's
new look

See disclaimer on page 10

Chalice-Flame

Sunday Services
9:30 and 11:15 am

228 Gougler Ave.
Kent, Ohio 44240
Phone: 330-673-4247
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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:
Karen Lapidus
dre-uukent@sbcglobal.net
DRE's Office Hours:
Tuesday and/or Wednesday
By appointment

Music Director:
Hal Walker

Commissioned Lay Leader:
Christie Anderson
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Newsletter editor:
Brad Bolton
bbolton@neo.rr.com
Deadline:
The 15th each month

In the files I inherited from my predecessor, the Rev. Julie Ann Silbermann-Bunn, there is a document entitled "What We Envision in 2001." Generated in 1992, the dreams listed on that sheet of paper address staffing levels at the church, social justice projects, programmatic ideas and, of course, physical facilities. The folks who participated in that visioning work identified tuckpointing the bricks, new restrooms, improved handicap accessibility, additional space for religious education, adequate parking and a reoriented and beautified sanctuary space as priorities. By the time I arrived at the church in August 2005 several of those dreams had been realized. The tuckpointing had been completed, an elevator had been installed, the Eldredge Annex had been purchased thereby making more room in the church for religious education classes and new bathrooms were being constructed. It is important to look back and remember all that has been accomplished. I am willing to bet that some of those dreams seemed out of reach when they were captured on newsprint back in the early 90's. And yet, with faith and dedication, the people of this church were able to live into their vision.

We know that nothing stays the same. New dreams are always being born. When we completed our congregational visioning work two years ago we identified another long list of priorities for our physical facilities. We still want to reorient the sanctuary and restore it to its original 250 person seating capacity. Due to the growth in our religious education program we once again are in need of additional space for our religious education classes. We are not yet satisfied with the quality or quantity of parking available to us. To that list we have added our desire for an expanded and improved kitchen and social hall, and a safe, inviting play area for our kids. With faith and dedication I believe we can once again live into our vision for restored and/or expanded space. Our work as a congregation is to figure out how to make our dreams reality.

We know it will require money. It is clear that a capital campaign is in our not too distant future. What isn't so obvious is the project we will be funding. Is it possible to acquire enough additional property to expand on our current site while meeting zoning requirements? If we can, how much of our vision will we be able to afford in the next five to ten years? Will finances or space constraints suggest that we really need to move to another location in order to realize our dreams? If we do consider moving, should we look for an existing building or plan for new construction? Would another location have to be in Kent proper or could it be in an adjoining community? What would be gained if we could move? What would be lost?

Two years ago we adopted a new mission statement. "Through spirited worship and open-minded religious exploration, our mission is to inspire people to live caring lives of meaning and purpose. We seek to encourage curiosity, strive to create peace and justice, and care for the living Earth with reverence and gratitude." Do we have to be in our current location to realize our mission? If your answer is yes, do you think there is some part of our mission which we haven't yet articulated? Or do you believe

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UUcoming Sermons

25 July

Summertime Surprise

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer

I am waiting to see what surprises this summer will bring before I write this sermon. I can tell you our services this morning will be a celebration of life. Come share the blessings.

1 August

The Abrahamic Faiths – A Quarreling Family

Bonnie Fraser with Worship Associate Christie Anderson

Members of the Neighboring Faiths class from the UU church and the United Church of Christ in Kent will share reflections about their experiences attending Jewish, Islamic, and Christian worship and the insights about contemporary issues learned through discussions with religious leaders.

4 August 7:00 pm

Vespers

8 August

What is Your Personal Legend?

Lori Mcgee with Worship Associate Kristofer Sperry

Have you ever wondered what your life's purpose is? After reading Paulo Coello's wonderful book, "The Alchemist", last spring, I was inspired to lead a service which explores ways we can answer this question for ourselves. The answers might be easier to find than you think.

15 August

The Breath of Life

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Dani Beale

Last fall Brad Bolton was the highest bidder on the item I submitted for the service auction: the chance to choose a theme for a worship service. Brad gave me a most interesting challenge. I'll tell you more about the challenge and about how I settled on my theme during the sermon. Here is a hint. If there were room on our outdoor sign for a subtitle it would read "A Theological and Spiritual Reflection on Reproductive Choice."

22 August

The Common Good

Renee Zimelis Ruchotzke and Worship Associate Kathy Kerns

According to UU Theologian Paul Rasor, part of the postmodern challenge is related to our society's emphasis on consumption over the common good. Does what we buy reflect who we are?

29 August

Belonging

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer, Director of Religious Education Karen Lapidus and

Worship Associate Eric van Baars

At this special multigenerational Ingathering Service we will celebrate the joy of belonging. Please bring a very small vial of water and soil to the service from a place that you feel you belong (symbolic water and soil is fine if it is not possible for you to get it from the place you have in mind). Children aged 3 and under will attend the nursery. Children aged 4 and up will attend the service.

An Invitation to Ordain Renee

The Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent requests the honor of your presence as we ordain Renee Zimelis Ruchotzke Saturday, the fourteenth of August two thousand ten at ten-thirty o'clock in the morning at the Kent United Church of Christ (UCC), 1400 East Main Street, Kent, Ohio. (Next to the Kent State University Music and Speech Building.) Reception to follow in the basement fellowship hall of the UCC church. For more information contact the church office.

What it Means to be Ordained

The other day a church member asked me, "If we ordain Renee -- does she become an assistant minister for Melissa?" Actually, no. It is a bit complicated, so let's start with what a congregation does. In Unitarian Universalism, only a congregation has the authority to "Call", "Ordain", and/or "Install" a minister. (In other non-congregational faith traditions bishops or presbyteries ordain.) In Melissa's case, we the UU Church of Kent members did all three.

Call means to ask a minister to be in covenantal relationship with us as our minister (and requires an overwhelming congregational vote). Install means to formally accept the new minister as our own. Ordain refers to granting a minister official, legal status and is only done once.

An ordained minister can legally perform any required duty of a minister (marriages, hospital and prison visits, etc.) and by tradition is henceforth addressed as Reverend and allowed to wear a liturgical stole. Since Renee is only ministering on a part-time, consulting basis at the Canton congregation she has asked her home church, us, to ordain her. This is a great honor for us and Renee.

You may have also heard the term "fellowship". The fellowship process is whereby the UU Association assesses and confers "certification" onto UU ministers. Renee has just begun this journey as she has recently achieved "Preliminary Fellowship." The process of reaching "Final Fellowship" takes three to nine years of active ministry and evaluations. Our minister Melissa received her Final Fellowship last year. If you have any questions feel free to contact any member of Renee's Ordination Planning Team, Margot Milcetic, Kathy Kerns, Kim Marfy, Jane Krimmer, or myself.

Peace, Mac Goekler

Call for Ordination Service Choir members

The choir will be performing at the Saturday, August 14 ordination of Renee Ruchotzke. (Choir members are asked to arrive at 10:00 am). Two practices will be held the week before: Sunday, August 8 at 6:30pm and Friday August 13 at 6:30pm in the UU Kent sanctuary. For more information contact our Music Director Hal Walker.

Cont'd from p 1

this statement of identity and purpose is full enough to guide our choices about how we use our limited resources?

Our congregation's leaders are working on outlining our various expansion options in detail and will soon be presenting a process plan for our consideration and adoption. The process plan will help us answer the technical questions about our options. But the questions about identity and purpose aren't technical. Those are questions we need to ponder and reflect upon with one another. I hope you will make yourself a part of this ongoing conversation.



Meetings to Discuss Options for Growth

An action team was formed on Sunday during a meeting of the Expansion team and the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees. This team has been charged to create a map of the process that will be used to explore the options we now face as a growing congregation with ever-increasing space requirements. Team members include Melissa Carvill-Zeimer, Christopher Gargoline, Susan Goekler, and John Brannon.

At this time, the following actions are planned-

- On August 8, 2010 after second service, the map will be discussed during an informational meeting. Informational meetings are held with the purpose of keeping the congregation apprised of Expansion Project status.
- On August 15, 2010 after second service, a congregational meeting will be held to vote on acceptance of process as mapped. During the Congregational meeting a vote will be taken to approve the process.

Sanctuary Etiquette or “Whatever Your Age, We Welcome You”

Although our church calendar is filled with wonderful life-affirming activities for folks of all ages, our Sunday morning worship services are the centerpiece of our faith community. I am so glad that we have a tradition of including people of all ages in each service, at least through the Time for All Ages and that we have frequent opportunities for multigenerational worship experiences. Children and youth need to feel included and welcome at our worship. This practice is one of the many hallmarks of a healthy, vibrant church.

In our increasingly busy lives, the worship service is a place for families to be together to retreat from the demanding calendar and share what used to be called “quality time”. Our words of welcome, stated each Sunday at the beginning of our services remind us that all are welcome to join us. Below are a few tips to help us be welcoming to folks of all ages. These tips and reminders are for parents, children, youth and all others!

- Children should be seated with their parent/guardian (or other designated adult) so that their safety and happiness is assured.
- If you are seated next to a child, help them find a song or reading in the hymnal, if needed. The numbers for the hymns and readings are posted on the charming sign above the piano.
- Be a model of proper sanctuary etiquette by quietly listening to the prelude or opening music.
- Encourage children to respect the service by asking them to sit in the pews or chairs rather than play on the floor.
- Expect a little noise and chaos! The vibrancy of childhood is frequently accompanied by a little noise.

My heart swells with love for our community whenever I witness the children singing our Doxology or reciting our Covenant by heart. Children need to know our songs, our theology, our stories and the rhythms of our worship. If we hope that our children and youth remain in our Unitarian Universalist circle when they grow up, we need to assure that they have positive experiences in worship, the focal point of our church's life.

In faith and with love,

Karen Lapidus Director of Religious Education

Financial Corner

At the time of writing this item, the various volunteers who work diligently to take care of the church's finances are finalizing the books to close out the 2010 fiscal year. We expect that the 2010 fiscal year will end in the black. If you have donated to the church in 2010, you should receive a statement of your contributions soon.

The financial volunteers include volunteer bookkeeper Bob Erdman, volunteer assistant treasurer Gene Weninger, volunteer Financial Secretaries Eric Van Baars and Beth Kuemerle. Volunteers who have helped the financial secretaries count donations (two unrelated people always count donations together) include Esther Duncan, Don Easterling, Christopher Gargoline, Heidrun Hultgren, Martha Kluth, Don Munro, and Tracy Parsons. Saunis Parsons has served as treasurer for the Social Justice fund; Bonnie Esparza will take over that responsibility this summer.

In addition to these volunteers, others host fund raising events. This summer Sandy Bowers and Colleen Norris have continued their monthly pancake breakfast fund raisers. Lois Wier and Jennifer May have agreed to co-chair the service auction this fall and are already working with Julie Swango on setting up computer software to track auction donations and purchases. Many thanks to all these people for their dedication and service.

There are many opportunities to help ensure that the congregation is financially healthy so that we can continue to be a vibrant faith community. We need people to help with the fall service auction, the spring stewardship campaign, fund raisers throughout the year, and as members of the Finance Committee who do budgeting and financial planning. If you have interests along these lines, please contact Susan Goekler to discuss how you might serve.

Susan Goekler, Church Treasurer

Tai chi

Tai chi will not meet during July and August. We will resume in September.

General Assembly Report

Kent Unitarians were active at General Assembly in Minneapolis last month. First, our own Renee Zimelis Ruchotzke not only received her Preliminary UUA Ministerial Fellowship, she also gave the annual Social Justice Sermon. Her sermon pegged to the Ethical Eating UUA Study Action was titled "Food for Thought". The sermon was well presented and very well received. Our Melissa as a leader in Allies for Racial Equity was very much involved in achieving a compromise solution to the 2012 General Assembly debacle. Her group brokered a plan where all sides "win" and we will not have a Phoenix GA boycott, but instead have a limited GA with lots of public witness for fair immigration reform. Yours truly was very involved in the final passage of a UUA Statement of Conscience on "Creating Peace". This UUA policy statement has as the lead in to the "Calls to Action" (implementation) section a provision whereby the Peace Ministry Network (PMN) will help congregations do the work of creating cultures of peace. I accepted as chair of PMN this charge.

Peace, *Mac Goekler*, Denominational Affairs Coordinator



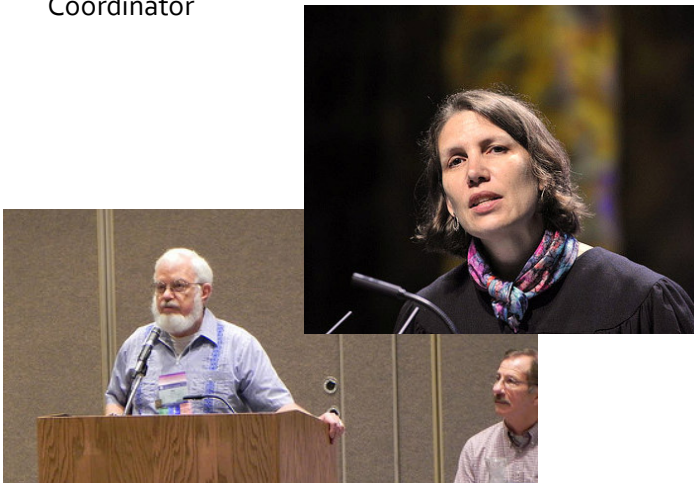
Jill Forsman and Jim Scott sat in with the UUTones at Summer Institute

Delegates Decide on a "Justice GA", will not Boycott Phoenix

Delegates at GA 2010 overwhelmingly endorsed a resolution to hold a special "Justice General Assembly" in Phoenix in 2012. The resolution called upon the UUA Board of Trustees to transform the usual annual gathering into a unique justice-oriented meeting. It also asked the UUA administration to work with leaders in Arizona UU Congregations to establish an Arizona immigration ministry. The resolution was drafted in response to outrage over Arizona's new anti-immigrant law, SB1070. An invitation from leaders of Puente and the National Day Laborer Organizing Network to develop a partnership with the UUA included a vision of a transformed annual meeting in Phoenix. Delegates decided that the justice gathering would be a more effective response than boycotting the state altogether.

UU World has covered this issue extensively and additional details can be found at <http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/167428.shtml>. Rev. Morales' letter can be found at <http://www.uua.org/news/newssubmissions/166693.shtml>.

Beth Casebolt, District Administrator
Ohio Meadville District



Mac Goekler and Renee Zimelis-Ruchotzke presenting at General Assembly last month.

Out to Lunch Bunch

On the Sundays when there is not a pancake breakfast, some members of the congregation gather at China City in University Plaza (on Rt. 43 south of town) for lunch. Anyone is welcome to join us for a Dutch treat lunch and conversation. For more information contact Susan Goekler 330-633-1846 or sgoekler@neo.rr.com.

Equality Lobby Day, May 19, 2010

More than 53 Unitarian Universalists, including nine clergy, from 14 different Ohio congregations gathered with over 200 fellow Ohioans to Stand on the Side of Love and participate in the 5th annual Equality Ohio Lobby Day on May 19 in Columbus.

Unitarian Universalists were a very noticeable group, wearing Standing on the Side of Love t-shirts and buttons. They shared buttons with many others and presented SSL cards to the legislators and aids that we spoke with. Several UU congregations also presented their state legislators with hand written letters from congregants.

Renee Ruchotzke, consulting student minister at the UU Congregation of Great Canton OH said: "I learned that written letters, as opposed to emails, that tell *personal* stories make a difference. When I hand-delivered letters that members and friends of my congregation had written about their experiences of discrimination it literally got the attention of the lawmakers. They can be hand-written or type-written, but they need to be personal, not formulaic."

Ohio ranks in the bottom tier, with 8 other US states like Utah and Mississippi, in regards to laws and policies that protect LGBT persons and their families from forms of discrimination and prejudice.

From the OMD district office



The Green Car at Summer Institute. They named it Soylent Green, of course.



Sandy Bowers, Saunis Parsons, Noreen Kum-Gory, Renee Zimelis-Ruchotzke and Ellen and Melissa Carville-Ziemer At Equality Lobby Day

Change is Hard; Kindness Matters

Do you believe these statements to be true?

1. The potential for change can be unsettling.
2. Talking about change can be uncomfortable.
3. Accepting change is difficult.

The ongoing conversation about changing our physical location for worship is experienced by some church members as unsettling, uncomfortable and difficult while many are excited, interested & enthusiastic and yet others are wary, undecided, cautious and nervous. All emotions are valid, all opinions are valued and everyone has an equal place at the table for discussion.

That said, this is a gentle, loving reminder and caution that when passion and emotions are running high, sometimes our vocal cord vibrations get ahead of our brains and better judgment. Please speak kindly and listen actively, thoughtfully, completely and with care. Words can wound and though wounds may heal, scars can remain. We are UUs which means we are human, fallible and lay no claim to perfection. As such, we will make mistakes but along the way, let us be mindful to respect the worth and dignity of each person and each opinion as the winds of change move softly through our beloved community.

Blessed be - The UUCK Committee on Ministry

Elaine Yehle Bowen – Chair

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer

Chris Hurlbut

Jane Krimmer

Randy Ruchotzke

Great Big Annual Organizing Meeting

Isn't it wonderful that we have so many things going on we have to coordinate our schedules not to trip over each other? To ensure good coordination every committee, group, task force and team that plans to have an event open to the congregation next year is asked to send a representative to our GREAT BIG ANNUAL ORGANIZING MEETING on Wednesday, September 8 at 7:00 pm in Fessenden Hall. Please bring your preferred dates for any events that will be held between September 2010 and June 2011 with you to the meeting. With calendars in hand and paper on the wall we will map out our special events for the next church year to be sure that our programming is balanced and spread out over the year. Please note that this will require each group to plan out their events in advance so you can bring the preferred dates for those events to the meeting. Thank you for your cooperation!



At Cheryl Spoehr's service on Children

Thanks from Ms. Marfy

In the June newsletter, Melissa called for donations to help John Marfy's mother after the Nashville flood devastated her home. Below is Ms. Marfy's letter to the congregation.

Dear Melissa and the congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church,

I have received your check for \$200 – I am overwhelmed and words cannot express my gratitude for your kindness.

Thank you for thinking of me, it's wonderful to know that people care. It helps getting back to normal in these difficult times. My home is being rebuilt slowly and I hope to be back there by the end of July. There is still a lot to be done, but we are getting there.

Thank you again.

With deep appreciation, Valeria Marfy



Amber Scott at the Hula Hoop station at Summer Institute

UUCK Chalice Groups

Registration for our fifth year of Chalice Groups will be coming up in September for the October 2010 through May 2011 session.

So . . . what exactly is a Chalice Group??? It is a way to meet and talk with 6-7 members of the congregation about a variety of UU and life topics. It's a program designed to promote in depth conversation once every 2 -3 weeks for 2 hours in a comfortable, intimate setting. It's a way to share your thoughts, feelings and beliefs in a relaxed atmosphere without the noise or distraction of coffee hour. It's a way to put faith in action via a group service project in the spring. It's personal bonding of a unique and wonderful kind.

Watch for the new brochure available on Labor Day Sunday in your Order of Service and in the brochure rack in the Founders' Lounge. Join us for an unforgettable experience!

The Chalice Group Planning Team
Chris Hurlbut, Chair
Christie Anderson
Elaine Bowen
Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer

Summertime Hunger is no Picnic

School is still a month away and children at home do not have access to subsidized free breakfast or lunch at school. They need to eat to be able to learn and stay healthy. Your non-perishable food donations are needed now more than ever for the Kent Social Services Food Pantry. One can of ravioli can feed 2 children, one box of macaroni and cheese mix can feed 3 or 4 young ones, or a jar each of peanut butter and jelly can make multiple sandwiches. A pound of pasta and a jar of spaghetti sauce will provide a dinner meal for a family, quite possibly your neighbors.

Please consider adding "food basket item" onto your grocery list this month and remember those in need. While you're shopping, please have them pack your order in brown paper grocery bags - KSS needs these for clients' groceries and we're recycling! If you're not "into" shopping, a quick stop by the Acme Bucks table in Fessenden Hall during coffee hour might be a good fit . . . gift cards in a variety of denominations are available for donation to KSS.

As always, thank you for your generosity. We can and do make a difference - one can, one box, one person at a time.

Elaine Yehle Bowen



Kristofer and Evelyn at the church picnic (Heidi Shaffer photo)

School Supplies for Ghana

As you are stocking up for the fall, consider picking up an extra box of pencils and dropping them off at the Fair Trade coffee table on Sunday mornings. Susan and Mac Goekler are collecting pencils to ship to their village in Ghana West Africa to be distributed to all the children in the village as part of their annual Christmas party. Other items of interest are costume jewelry for the girls who are part of a dance group and soccer balls. For more information, contact Susan.

Adult RE

If you are an adult interested in deepening your faith and your understanding of the Big Questions in life, and have ideas for what you would like to explore religiously, please come to the Adult RE Committee meeting on August 15 after the second service (location to be determined). At that time, we will plan programming for adults for the coming year. We welcome new ideas and new people to the discussion. If you have interests or ideas, but are unable to attend, please send your ideas to Susan Goekler.



Melissa and Megan at summer Institute



Susanna Smart (right) teaching her Rosen Method workshop at Summer Institute

August Church Events

1 10:30 Chat with Kristofer pg 7-9 AA FH	2	3 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	4 7 pm Vespers S	5	6	7
8 10:30 Chat with Kristofer pg 12:30 Informational mtg. S 6:00 Choir S p3 7-9 AA FH	9	10 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	11	12	13 6:00 Choir Ordination practice p3	14 10-1:00 Renee Ordination p3
15 Newsletter deadline1 10:30 Congregation vote S 11:00 New UU class EA 12:15 adult RE mtg. 7-9 AA FH	16	17 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 6:30 RE com.	18	19	20	21
22 10:30 Chat with Kristofer pg 12:15 Congregation mtg. S 7-9 AA FH	23	24 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 1:00 Library com.	25	26	27	28 12-4:00 OWL parent orientation
29 Ingathering Sunday 9:30 Adult RE EA 7-9 AA FH	30	31 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 7:00 RE teacher mtg.	1 7:00 Vespers S	2	3	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;
CB- Christie and Brad's house

Calendar does not reflect changes or additions after July 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.

Coffee Chats with the Moderator Any Sunday through August

Our moderator, Kristofer Sperry, wants to be available to talk with anyone who has questions or feedback regarding our congregational exploration of expansion opportunities. If you'd like to speak with him, you can find him in the sanctuary during coffee hour any Sunday between now and the end of August.

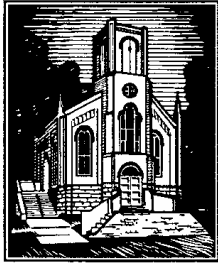
Congregational Information Meeting August 8

Our Board of Trustees has charged a small team with creating a comprehensive process map that will guide the many decisions and possible actions we will undertake during our expansion process. This team led by Assistant Moderator Christopher Gargoline and consisting of Susan Goekler, John Brannan and Melissa Carvill-Ziemer (ex-officio) will present the process map for questions and feedback at a congregational meeting after the second service on Sunday, August 8 in Fessenden Hall. Childcare will be available. Please call the office if you would like to reserve a place for your child.

Congregational Voting Meeting August 15

All members of the congregation are encouraged to come vote whether to endorse the process map which will guide our congregation's leaders during our expansion process. The voting meeting will be held in the sanctuary during coffee hour immediately after our early worship service. Childcare will be available. Please call the office if you would like to reserve a place for your child.

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



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Celtic Clan in August

8/2/10 7:30 - Practice Christie & Brad's
8/7/10 3pm - Sweet Corn fest,
Beckwith's Orchard
8/9/10 7:30 - Practice Christie & Brad's
8/16/10 7pm Maison Ainee Stow
8/23/10 7pm Woodlands at Robinson
8/30/10 No Practice

Page 1 is a parody of the Record-Courier's new front page. The Editor apologizes for any trauma, nausea, hair loss, etc., you have experienced as a result of viewing the page. We will return to our regularly scheduled cover next month - the Chalice Flame staff will be sure of that.

Book Group Meetings

On August 10 we will meet at 6:30 pm at the home of Annie Brightbill. We will meet in the church parking lot to carpool at 5:30 pm. The book will be *The Story of Edward Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski. This is a very successful first novel that tells the story of a mute boy, his family, and his cherished dogs. Please email Annie at anniebrightbill@att.net to let her know if you will be attending the meeting.

On September 14 we will meet at 7 pm at the home of Kathie Slater. We will each share a book of our choice about a place--one where we have traveled this year, one where we would like to travel, or one that fascinates us.



UUs from across the country took a break from General Assembly to attend the Gay Pride event in Minneapolis