

# The Chalice Flame

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

September 2010

Sunday Services 9:30 and 11:15 am

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#### Minister:

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The 15th each month

e don't have air conditioning in my house. By the end of July I was eagerly anticipating summer's end! That feeling gave me new appreciation for the people who start complaining about winter in January. Happily for all of us, whichever season we prefer, it always comes round again. Right now I am grateful that autumn will soon be returning. Every year I look forward to the many pleasures of this beautiful season of change.

Some of you may have heard that we were planning to make another change in the church this fall by moving our services times a bit earlier and having a separate coffee hour after each service. With the help of a small group of church leaders, I planned to implement those changes in order to ease crowding, promote hospitality and maximize our limited parking space. I still believe we are challenged by the limits of our space, but I also believe that we need to pace ourselves.

This summer has been unusual in our congregation. We have had our attention focused on the possibility of buying the Twin Lakes Country Club and on the reactions of potential future neighbors to our exploration of that space. We have been thinking long and hard about what other expansion options might be available to us and have approved a process map that will guide our investigations. If you have not yet had a chance to see the process map outlining all the options we are considering, please see any member of the board of trustees to request a copy.

While our expansion exploration unfolded, I traveled to Phoenix, AZ to witness for human rights and was arrested in an action of civil disobedience. The coverage of Unitarian Universalists standing on the side of love in AZ received considerable media coverage. The stories about my efforts in our local media prompted members of our congregation and our wider community to respond. Many people have told me how glad they are that I was willing and able to take a stand. Others have expressed some reservations or concerns to me in the spirit of respectful dialogue. A very small number have voiced their opposition to my stance in angry and hostile ways, prompting us to prioritize the public safety planning our Safety Committee had intended to pursue this fall.

Given all of that it seems wise to me and other church leaders to postpone changing the service times for now. As a community we have much to consider as we imagine the next chapter in our future. It could be that in a year from now we will have an expansion plan in place that would require even more change to our service times. So, for now, we will leave the Sunday morning schedule as it is. However, we have changed the Wednesday evening vespers schedule in order to add a community meal before the service. For a small fee you and your family can enjoy a catered dinner and stay for an uplifting mid-week worship service. You can even make it a whole evening and stay for the "Making Peace With Your Religious Past" class I will be offering this fall. More details about our all our new Wellspring Wednesday programming can be found in this edition of the Chalice Flame.

See you in church.

Melissa

## **Upcoming Sermons**

5 September

Why I Was Willingly Arrested and What I Learned Along the Way

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Dani Beale

I believe that Arizona's new anti-immigrant law is immoral and unjust. So when the call came to travel to Phoenix to participate in the National Day of Non-Compliance this past July, I knew I had to answer. To talk about my experience I have to follow several threads. My sermon this morning will include reflection on immigration history, worker justice issues, civil disobedience philosophy and the prison industry. Our worship this morning will include a couple of great songs from the Unitarian Universalist soundtrack of the Human Rights Summer!

12 September

A Time of Reckoning

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Kristina Spaude

What would you find if you were to seriously take stock of your failings? What would you need to make right if you were to carefully review the mistakes you have made in your relationships this past year? The "Days of Awe" following Rosh Hashanah in the Jewish tradition are a time of reckoning. It is a time for owning up to mistakes, a time for apologies, a time for making amends. Come consider the spiritual gifts and challenges of confession, repentance and beginning again.

15 September

Wellspring Wednesday

5:30 Catered dinner in Fessenden Hall. Modest cost to be announced. Contact office with reservation by 9/12.

6:15 Sacred Singing with Saunis Parsons, sanctuary

7:30 "Making Peace With Your Religious Past" with Rev. Carvill-Ziemer, Fessenden Hall

19 September

Yes! No! I Don't Know!

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Kathy Kerns

Navigating change can feel like riding an emotional rollercoaster. One moment we might be brimming with excitement about the new possibilities before us, the next could find us filled with grief for all that we stand to lose if we make a change. It is enough to leave us uncertain, confused or even depressed. How can we live through the changes in our lives - at home, at work, and here at church - in a way that fosters health and wholeness?

26 September

Chalice Groups – Building Community Eight at a Time

Elaine Bowen and Chalice Group members

Over the past 5 years, the face of UUCK has changed with a new minister and many new members. It can be difficult to get to know each other or engage in deep conversation in the noise & distraction of coffee hour or in a few moments of greeting. This service aims to introduce Chalice Groups as a opportunity and invitation for congregants to engage in the development of relationships through the discussion of meaningful UU related topics.



Stefanie Workman and Mike Hovancsek walk home from church

## Religious Education Plans for 2010-2011

The curricula has been chosen, the teaching teams are nearly complete, the projected class rosters have been reviewed and the classroom spaces are being readied all in preparation for September 5th, the start of the religious education program year!

Again, we are offering the wonderful Spirit Play program for children age 4 through grade 2. This experiential learning environment is an ideal way to teach our Unitarian Universalist core stories and promote our principles. This class meets at both the 9:30 and 11:15 services.

After such a rewarding experience last church year, we will again be using one of the Unitarian Universalist Association's "Tapestry of Faith" programs for children in grades 3-5. Windows and Mirrors is about diversity, relationships and responsibility. It includes an amazing integrative project that the children will work on all year. Grades 3-5 meets at both the 9:30 and 11:15 services.

Our middle school class (grades 6-8) will be using You, the Creator. It is an activity-based program of creative empowerment. It's basic message is that each of us can be and should be the creative forces in the world. Middle School meets only during the 11:15 service.

Our high school youth group (grades 9-12) will be engaging in a small group ministry program and will be using

some of the same sessions used by our Chalice Groups as well as the program, Small Group Ministry for Youth. Youth Group meets only during the 11:15 service.

Childcare for infants and children who are three years old in the fall, is lovingly provided by Michelle Bores and volunteer helpers during both services. Michelle brings her open heart and professional experience to provide a safe and welcoming environment for our littlest ones.

We are also offering OWL (Our Whole Lives), the UUA's widely acclaimed program of comprehensive sexuality education to 7th and 8th grade youth on Thursday evenings.

Additional information including more about the content in each curricula, will be available on our website.

#### PARENTS/GUARDIANS PLEASE NOTE:

Registration for all new and returning children and youth will take place during the month of September in Fesenden Hall during social hour.

The Ingathering Multigenerational worship services will be August 29th. RE starts on Sunday, September 5th. In faith and with love, *Karen Lapidus*, Director of Religious Education



# **Chalice Group Registration**

Brochures and registration forms for 2010 - 2011 Chalice Group program will be in the Order of Service and available at the literature table in the Founders' Lounge on Labor Day Sunday, Sept. 5. Representatives from the CG Planning Team will be available in Fessenden Hall during coffee hour on Sunday, Sept. 12, 19 and 26 to answer your questions and accept registrations. Registration will conclude on 9/26 with groups beginning to meet by mid October.

Please join in this invitation to grow your faith and widen your circle of kindred souls in our church community. Questions? Please contact Chris Hurlbut, Christie Anderson or Elaine Bowen.



John Kluth and Elliot Mercer work on art during coffee hour.

## **Announcing Wellspring Wednesdays!**

Get a surge of mid-week renewal by enjoying an evening of engaging events, including eating, singing, meditation, worship and learning planned for designated Wednesdays this fall. The exciting lineup is below, beginning September 15<sup>th</sup>:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays (Sept.15, Oct. 20, Nov.17, Dec.15)
- 5:30 Catered dinner in Fessenden Hall for all ages
- 6:15 Singing! with Saunis Parsons or Christie Anderson (details below)
- 7:30 Making Peace With Your Religious Past, with Rev. Carvill-Ziemer
- 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays (Oct.6, Nov.3, Dec.1)
- 5:30 Catered dinner in Fessenden Hall for all ages
- 6:15 Vespers
- 7:30 Making Peace With Your Religious Past, with Rev. Carvill-Ziemer

The cost of the dinner, which will be announced in advance, will be a modest cost for adults with a reduced rate for children. The dinners will be catered to enable participants to attend without the hassle of preparing a potluck dish to bring. However, to plan for the number attending, it will be necessary to make a reservation by the Sunday prior to the Wednesday dinner by contacting the Church Office Administrator, July Brannan.

Following dinner, the traditional vespers service will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month beginning in October.

The 6:15 activities on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month will include two different musical experiences, each offering the opportunity for mindful presence while temporarily setting aside life's daily humdrum. Beginning on September 15, Saunis Parsons will lead "Sacred Singing" circles, an energizing sing-along of favorite hymns and folk

tunes. Clap your hands, stomp your feet, sway to the music and feel the pulse of energy as you sing along with others. This activity is open to everyone and will be held every other month.

On alternating 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, a different form of singing will be facilitated by Christie Anderson. At General Assembly, Christie received details about a form of meditation involving simple, repetitive singing, known as "Singing Meditation." Singers form a circle and sing one-verse, easy songs over and over with eyes closed. As the singing fades, two to five minutes of silence takes place in between each song, providing the opportunity for meditation, prayer, contemplation or just relaxed embracing of the silence. The fact that Christie is leading the singing is a testament to the fact that you don't need to be a good singer in order to benefit from this meditative experience. Older children are welcome if they appreciate periods of silence. Vespers and singing are on a drop-in basis.

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer's class is for adults who wish to reflect upon their previous religious experiences and determine what in their religious past is worth carrying forward into the present and making peace with all the rest. This is a cumulative class, so participants are asked to attend all of the classes from September 15<sup>th</sup> through December 1<sup>st</sup>. More details are offered in the article containing this fall's Adult Religious Education opportunities.

During the 7:30 time slot on December 15<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Carvill-Ziemer will offer a one-time class entitled "Surviving the Holidays" for those seeking strength for facing challenges during the holidays.

Feel free to participate in any combination of the Wednesday evening activities. Note that advance reservations are needed for the dinners and for childcare, which is offered by the church for the 6:15 activities. Re-energize at Wellspring Wednesdays!



# **Adult RE Offerings**

Whith a new fall season, it is time to consider your plans for personal and spiritual growth. A complete listing for all fall programs will be available in September. Below are September's opportunities.

**Reclaiming Spiritual Language**: During second service in the Eldredge Annex.

In his book *Religion, Values, and Peak Experiences*, Abraham Maslow lamented that language to discuss spiritual issues is unavailable because so many words have been co-opted by one group or another and carry a lot of baggage. He suggested the need to either create new words or reclaim and redefine existing words. In this series (developed originally by Melissa Carvill-Ziemer during her internship), we will consider the words "sin," "grace," "faith," and "covenant." For more information contact Susan Goekler.

Neighboring Faiths: Eastern Religions: 2:00 – 3:30 September 12, 19, and 26

This Sunday afternoon series, which we will offer jointly with the Kent United Church of Christ, will continue with a focus on Hinduism in September and on Buddhism in October. All are invited and drop ins are welcome. The source book is Huston Smith's World Religions. The sessions will consider historical background, liturgy and symbols, cultural values ad current issues for each. The September sessions on Hinduism will be at the UU Church of Kent from 2 – 3:30 on September 12, 19, and 26; the October series will meet at the UCC Church on October 10, 17, and 24. Led by Bonnie Fraser.

Tell Your story: 3:30 – 5:00 September 12 and 26 in the Eldredge Annex

Come and discover the joy of writing. Join others regularly or drop in and consider ways to expand writing (prose or poetry) as a spiritual practice. Led by Pat Pownall.

#### Sermons and Board Minutes Available

Some printouts 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.

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

#### Here We Grow! The UUCK Service Auction

This year's auction will be held October 16<sup>th</sup>. It's already nearly September, and there isn't much time before the start of one of the biggest and funnest fund raisers of the year. To make this year's auction a success, we need your help. The committee is still looking for volunteers in many areas. Our volunteer coordinator, Trish McLoughlin is eager to help you help us.

For the uninitiated, each year our church holds an auction where church members, friends of the church and businesses donate services and goods to the church. These services and goods are then presented for auction on the evening of the event. Those attending the event may purchase the donations in two ways: via bid sheets during the silent auction or with the aid of an auctioneer at the live auction, held later in the evening. The evening is filled with lively fun, good food and drink (an understatement), and the best community in town (a personal bias, I guess). Certainly, the UUCK auction is a great way to spend an evening. So, don't miss out on this event.

Many more details about this year's auction will be available soon.

Julie Swango - Service Auction Communications



# Making Peace with Your Religious Past

led by Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer Six Wednesdays from 7:30 – 9:00 pm after vespers 9/15, 10/6, 10/20, 11/3, 11/17 and 12/1

The majority of people who are Unitarian Universalists today were raised in another religious tradition or in no religious tradition at all. Some people come to our congregations with warm and positive memories of the religious influences that have shaped their lives; others come with unresolved feelings about certain aspects of their religious history. This class is designed to help participants reflect upon their previous religious experiences. The goal is for each person to find what in their religious past is worth carrying forward into the present and to make peace with all the rest. This series is cumulative; participants are asked to try to attend all or most of the classes in the series. The first class will be held in Fessenden Hall. All other classes in the series will be held in the Eldredge Annex.

# The Big Read is Coming!

What do the experiences of a warrior tell us about the nature of war and its human consequences? What do a veteran's experiences in the Vietnam War tell us about how we can work for peace? Everyone is invited to discuss these and other questions at our church's Big Read discussion on Friday, October 8 from 7-9P pm at the church. The book chosen for this year's local Big Read is Tim O'Brien's collection of stories titled The Things They Carried. You are encouraged first to read the book and then to come for the discussion. Our discussion is free and the public is invited.

According to the Big Read website, "The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts, designed to restore reading to the center of American culture." Hiram College has won a Big Read grant to organize readings and discussions of around Portage County in October. The discussion at our church is titled, "The Vietnam War Experience and Peacemaking: A Discussion of The Things They Carried."

The book's author Tim O'Brien will kick off the Big Read in Portage County with a free presentation at Hiram College on Wednesday, October 6 from 7-9P pm in the Pritchard Room of the Hiram College library. So let's get reading and come to both events. For more information, contact Vivien Sandlund. Check out the Big Read website at <a href="http://www.neabigread.org/">http://www.neabigread.org/</a>.

# Men's Group Anyone?

Some of us men at church would like to form a men's group. We need a short-term, or better, long-term facilitator to jump start the program. If you feel moved to facilitate such a group, pick a date and time for a meeting and put a notice in the newsletter and we will be there. Announce that you bring the beer and we will really be there.

Thanks to whomever steps up to the plate! *UU Men* 

#### Out To Lunch Bunch

Join us for food and fun at China City restaurant after second service. We don't meet when pancake breakfast or other church lunch is held after church.

## **Invitations from Sunday Program Committee**

The Sunday Program Committee is extending two invitations to congregation members. First, we are seeking additional members to join our team, which meets about 4 times a year. We review proposals from individuals interested in leading worship services, invite guest worship leaders, and help coordinate lay led worship services. If you are interested in participating, please contact Christie Anderson.

Second, we are soliciting proposals from those who have a topic and would like to participate in a worship service. Don't feel uneasy about leading a worship service - committee members can assist with the parts of the service the lay leader does not wish to handle and can offer help in developing an idea into a sermon. To submit a proposal, complete the form found at the church web site at <a href="http://www.kentuu.org/sunday-program-committee.html">http://www.kentuu.org/sunday-program-committee.html</a> or contact Christie Anderson. Proposals for services to be offered between January and March 2011 should be submitted by September 28th.

#### Prisoner Pen Pal Program

Through the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship's Letter-Writing Ministry, around 140 Unitarian Universalists are writing to other UUs who are in prison. The Rev. Patty Franz, coordinator of this effort, says that prisoners have now been offered the opportunity to have a second pen pal.

That means more pen pals on the "outside" are needed. Being a pen pal for a prisoner-member of the CLF is a social justice project that individuals can take on at their convenience, wherever they live. All letters are sent by U.S. Postal Service. Prisoners are told only the first name or nickname of those they are paired with. CLF staff are available for advice and support. Read the guidelines and notes for CLF's Letter Writing Ministry and request an application packet at <a href="https://www.clfuu.org/prisonministry">www.clfuu.org/prisonministry</a>, or write to the CLF Prison Ministry, 25 Beacon St, Boston, MA 02108.

A UUA-sponsored email list, <u>uu-prison-justice</u> is also available, providing a way to connect with other UUs engaged in this ministry and other prison-related social justice issues.

Don Skinner is a member of the Shawnee Mission UU Church in Overland Park, Kansas

#### **Library News**

We are looking for a volunteer to help staff the library at the time of coffee hour. Contact Martha Kluth at 330-673-7218 if you can help.

If you want to return an item to the library and the library is closed, it may be left with Judy in the church office during normal office hours.

If you want to suggest an item for purchase, please write the information on the wish list provided in the library.

Keep in mind that our library has limited funds, so donations of materials or funds are greatly appreciated. Donations of materials should fit in one of the categories shown in the library. Place items on the glass table in the library including your name and contact information and indicate whether you want the material returned to you if the library cannot use it.

The newly reorganized library committee is updating the information on the church website. We hope to have it completed by September 1. This includes making our catalog available on-line. It has been updated by Andrew Bores--a very big job. We are also preparing a pamphlet about using the library. It covers how the books are classified, the circulation process, and how donations are made. Look for an announcement of an open house in the library after these tasks are completed.

Questions? Contact a member of the library committee: Martha Kluth, Chair, Kathy Wilen, Olive Hobbs, and Andrew Bores, Database Maintenance.



# Interested in Meditation and Spiritual Growth?

I have been a member of the UU Church of Akron for many years. In our services Reverend Tim Temerson often sets aside a few minutes for silent prayer and meditation.

To encourage the practice of meditation and provide some useful information on that topic I have started a web log (blog). As I have been a teacher of meditation for over 35 years there is much to write about.

Check out my new blog at: <u>www.meditationandspiritualgrowth.com</u> *John Kirszenberg* 

## Reverend Renee Gets Gig

Our own Rev. Renee Ruchotzke, who we just ordained on August 14, has been named the new Regional Leadership Development Consultant for the Central East Region (CERG) of the UUA beginning September 1st. The CERG region is made up of the Joseph Priestley, Ohio Meadville, Metro New York and St. Lawrence Districts. This new position will allow Renee to work out of her Kent home.



#### T'ai Chi

An ancient Chinese meditative practice, t'ai chi is sometimes referred to as "meditation in motion." It draws upon the principles of Yin and Yang – harmony and the integration of mind and body. The class meets Monday evenings in Fessenden Hall. Beginners can start any Monday at 8 p.m. We invite donations to the church, at a recommended level of \$5 per session. The leader is Susan Goekler, a certified instructor with the Tai Chi Association of Atlanta.



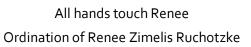
Wayne Arnason, West Shore UU, extends the Right Hand of Worship to Renee

Renee's father, Janis













Fantastic set of "Willy Wonka" at Tallmadge High. John (as Willy Wonka) and Joey Marfy above and above right. Gia Marfy above left.

# **September Church Events**

29 10:30 Pancakes 11:15 Adult RE FH p5 12:15 Pancakes redux 12:30 Pastoral Associates EA 12:30 Leadership mtg. 7-9 AA FH	30	Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 7:00 RE teachers <i>FH</i> 7-9:00 Master Plan <i>EA</i>	1 7:00 Auction mtg. <i>EA</i>	7:30 Govern- ance Task Force EA	3	4
5 11:15 Adult RE <i>EA p5</i> 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	6 7:00 Tai chi	7 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 7-9:30 Board mtg. <i>EA</i> 7-9:00 SPAN mtg. <i>S</i>	8 7-9:00 Organizing mtg. <i>FH</i>	9	10	11
12 11:15 Adult RE <i>EA p5</i> 2-3:30 Neighboring Faiths <i>EA p5</i> 3:30 Writing Group <i>EA p5</i> 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	13 7:00 Tai Chi	Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 11:30 luncheon setup FH 12:00 Retirees lunch 7:00 Board mtg. EA 7-9:00 SPAN mtg. FL	15 Newsletter deadline 5-7:00 Vespers dinner FH p4 7-9:00 Auction planning EA 7:30-9:30 Religious Past p5	16	17	18 10-3:00 rental <i>FH</i>
19 11:15 Adult RE <i>EA p5</i> 2:00-3:30 Neighboring Faiths <i>EA p5</i> 7-9 AA <i>FH</i>	<b>20</b> 7:00 Tai chi	21 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	22 5:30-7:30 Safety mtg. <i>EA</i>	23	24	25
26 10:30 Pancakes 11:15 Adult RE EA p5 12:15 Pancakes reflux 2-3:30 Neighboring Faiths EA p5 3:30 Writing Group EA p5 7-9 AA FH	<b>27</b> 7:00 Tai chi	28 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 7-9:00 Auction mtg. EA	29 6-8:30 Program mtg. <i>EA</i> 6:45-8:45 RE mtg. <i>FH</i>	30	1	2

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 August 21

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



A hungry Kay Eckman attacks the remains of Logan Bores' birthday cake during coffee hour.

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* 

#### **Book Club News**

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. This is an open group. Come and join in our program.

#### Surviving the Holidays

The holidays can be a difficult time for many people. If you are one of those people you are welcome to join us after vespers on Wednesday 12/15. In the spirit of caring community, we will share with one another from the heart. This is a chance to name the challenges and to harness strength and hope the for days ahead. The discussion will be led by Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer in a single session on Wednesday 12/15 from 7:30 – 9:00.



#### **Greeters Needed**

Would you like to get to know the congregation of our church better and provide a valuable service at the same time? Volunteer to be a greeter/usher! Training will be provided in September, so this is an opportune time to try it! Contact Kim Marfy or Marion Yeagler.

#### **Photos from Summer Institute**

Relive the fun, workshops, and music of Summer Institute through pictures at Brad Bolton's photo website - http://tinyurl.com/SI4evah

There were 80 Kent UUs there this year, probably a record.