



The Chalice Flame



The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent

October 2010

Sunday Services
9:30 and 11:15 am

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Kent, Ohio 44240
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Tuesday - Friday
By appointment

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Deadline:

The 15th each month

How do you know when you are welcome? For example, when you are invited into someone's home for the first time, what kinds of things can your host do to set you at ease and help you feel comfortable? Maybe you appreciate it when your host takes your coat, offers you something to eat or drink and shows you a comfortable place where you can sit. Perhaps you find it helpful when your host introduces you to other guests you might not know. Or maybe you are grateful when your host starts a conversation that he or she believes you might enjoy having. These are common enough courtesies and ones you are probably accustomed to extending when people come to your home.

Here is a question though – do you think about extending these courtesies to guests who visit our church? When you see someone coming in to the sanctuary carrying their coat do you point out the location of our coat rack? Do you invite people you meet during the greeting time at the beginning of the service to join you afterwards for a cup of coffee? Do you take a moment to engage in conversation with people you do not know? Our greeters make a point to do all of these things and I know there are several others who try to say hello and welcome to people they don't recognize any given Sunday. If you consider this your church home, I encourage you to consider ways you personally can help us practice the fragile art of hospitality.

One of the easiest and most significant things you can do toward that end is to wear your name tag on Sunday mornings. I know it is easy to forget, especially if you have been here a while and know a lot of people. But every single Sunday we have newcomers who don't know anyone. Wearing nametags is a way to signify welcome. It is also one of the best tools we have for ensuring that everyone who visits our church is here with positive intent. Our greeters will be making a special effort to ask all visitors to stop and make a nametag for themselves so that they can get to know them a little bit and extend a personal welcome. It is essential that visitors see others are wearing their name tags as well so that they don't feel they stand out.

Our goal is to find ways to extend a warm welcome to guests while also attending to matters of safety and security. Our Safety Committee meets regularly and is always striving to strengthen and improve our safety protocols. We recently created an incident report form that we have distributed to all religious education teachers and hung next to the first aid kits. This will allow us to collect information about any injuries or security concerns both so we can respond and so we can learn how to reduce safety risks in the future. We are also in the process of establishing a Safety Squad of people who will be prepared to intervene whenever safety or security is compromised at church. If you would like to be part of that group please let me know.

Whether or not you choose to pursue a formal role on our Safety Teams or in our welcoming ministries, you have an important role to play. Together we are the ones who make this a safe community. Together we are the ones who make this a welcoming community. We do it by the ways we act when we are together.

See you in church,

Upcoming Sermons

3 October 2010

Who We Have Been and Who We Are Becoming

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Max Grubb

2011 marks the 50th anniversary of the merger of the Unitarians and Universalists. With hundreds of other Unitarian Universalist congregations across the country, we will look forward to this important moment in our history by looking back. Come celebrate Association Sunday and reflect on fifty years and the future of our faith.

6 October, Wednesday

Autumn Memories

Worship Associate Dani Beale

We will spend this vespers time sharing our memories of autumn from our lives. If you would like, you may bring something to share that represents your autumn memory. Lets get into the spirit of this beautiful season!

10 October

The Virtue of Honesty

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Ted Voneida

"If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything." This quip is attributed to Mark Twain. Countless people have offered similar proclamations and much has been written proclaiming the virtue of honesty. But what does it really mean? We'll consider this together with story and song in the special service for all ages.

17 October

Is There An App for That?

Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Worship Associate Lori McGee

Technology is dramatically changing the way we live our lives. Technological solutions abound to help us work, shop, research, connect, socialize and recreate. But how is our technology influencing our relationship with the natural world?

20 October, Wednesday

Singing meditation

Commissioned Lay Leader Christie Anderson

For Vespers this week, relax with this calming combination of repetitive singing of simple, one verse songs followed by several minutes of silence after each song. For anyone over age 14, including those who feel they lack singing skills.

24 October

Heidi Emhoff with worship associate Eric Van Baars

Spiritual Journeys Through the Music of U2

The band U2 has been a relevant part of the popular rock scene since the 1980s both for their music and political activism. Professed Christians, though not affiliated with any particular religious order or church, U2 has both preached and put into practice a humanist, tolerant faith. Today we explore the inspiring spiritual messages found in some of U2's best songs.

31 October

Feast of the Dead

Rebekah Benner and Worship Associate Lori McGee

This Feast of the Dead is considered one of the primary time-locked cracks between the worlds. The ritual of Samhain, "Summer's End", marks the end, and the beginning of the Celtic new year. In the time when the new year begins, it is believed that two different worlds come together: the world of the ancestors and the world of the living. We take this time to remember those who have journeyed before us, sharing in a celebration of life. You are welcome to bring a photo or memento of your loved one to place on the Samhain table.

Melissa will be **out of town** serving on the Unitarian Universalist Association Midwest Regional Subcommittee on Candidacy 10/25 – 10/27. She will be away again 10/29 – 10/30 co-leading an anti-racism workshop at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis. She will be available via cell phone that week for urgent concerns.

Here We Grow! A Night at the Service Auction

It's that time of year again, a bit of sowing, a bit of *growing*, a bit harvesting...that's right. It's service auction time! There is much in store for everyone this year. The big news about this year's service auction is our new location. The new venue will provide attendees with ample table seating and space to peruse the silent auction items. Additionally, it is fully handicap accessible. Here are the basic facts about the "Here we *Grow!*" auction of services and goods:

Location: Acker Moore Banquet Hall (VFW/American Legion), 3733 Fishcreek Rd., Stow, Ohio 44224

Date: Saturday October 16, 2010

Food / Silent Auction: begins at 6:00 pm

Verbal Auction: begins at 7:30 pm

Checkout: begins at 9:30 pm

Tickets: \$15

The silent auction includes themed gift baskets and certificates for various local businesses, including restaurants and theatre tickets. The verbal auction with auctioneer Denny Eberhart features original artwork, themed dinner parties, outings, and a range of unique service offerings. Ticket price includes heavy hors d'oeu-



Holiday Food Baskets

It's fall and that means upcoming holiday celebrations for most people. It's difficult to celebrate when unemployment is rampant and food is scarce. Kent Social Services provides holiday meal fixings for those in need and they must start early to help meet the ever increasing needs of our community.

Specific items needed are: grocery gift cards to purchase turkey or ham, canned sweet potatoes, mashed potato flakes or scalloped potato mix, turkey gravy, cranberry sauce, canned fruit and vegetables - any kind, cake mix and gelatin mix.

Acme gift cards in a variety of denominations (\$10 and up) may be purchased at the Acme Bucks table in Fessenden Hall during coffee hour and donated to KSS. Please help make the holiday season a bit brighter for one of our neighbors in need.

Thank you in advance for your generosity,
Elaine Bowen

vres, desserts, and beverages, and a cash bar will be available as well.

Tickets to the service auction are available at coffee hour between services each Sunday. Those needing child care (provided at the church) during the service auction need to request this by Sunday, October 3rd.

Have a donation that you'd like to contribute to this year's event? Donations from the congregation are very much needed. See a service auction representative at coffee hour or contact Lois Weir. Donation forms are also available online at www.serviceauction.org or the church web site. Auction items may be dropped off at the church on Friday, October 15th from 12:00 noon to 8:00 pm. A donation form must be submitted for each item donated.

Want to lend a hand and avoid the admission price? Volunteers who help with setup, cleanup and/or running the event may attend free. To find out how you can help, contact Trish McLoughlin, or see an auction representative during coffee hour.

Temporary Space Needed

Wanted! A temporary storage place for early donations for the book sale. If you have some room to spare, you can have all the reading you want! Large scale donations begin coming in late September. Please call Sandy Bowers or Michelle Bores.

The Big Read Is Coming!

Join friends and neighbors at the UU Church of Kent on Friday, October 8th from 7-9PM for a discussion of the Big Read book *The Things They Carried*, by Vietnam veteran Tim O'Brien. We will use the collection of stories as a starting point for a discussion of what the Vietnam War experience can teach us about peacemaking. Folks who have not read the book are welcome. The Big Read is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts. Author Tim O'Brien will speak at Hiram College on Wednesday, October 6 at 7PM in the Pritchard Room of the college library. Both events are free and open to the public. For more information contact Vivien Sandlund. You can check out the Big Read website at <http://www.neabigread.org/>.

Adult religious education opportunities

1) Reclaiming Spiritual Language - Sundays at 11:15 in the Annex

During October, we will continue exploring the words and concepts we use to talk about what gives our lives meaning. In the preface to "A Language of Reverence", Dean Grodzins quotes then UUA President William Sinkford, Although "Religious language" doesn't have to mean 'God talk,'" UUs need to be "secure enough, and mature enough" to appreciate a language "that would allow us to capture the possibility of reverence, to name the holy, to talk about human agency in theological terms." How comfortable are you using religious language? Because so many words have been co-opted by one group or another and carry a lot of baggage, Abraham Maslow suggested the need to either create new words or reclaim and redefine existing words in order to discuss and consider some profound and fundamental aspects of the human condition. This discussion group is open to anyone and welcomes drop-ins as well as regular attendees.

October's words will include covenant, worship, spirituality, salvation, and soul. For more information contact Susan Goekler.

2) Neighboring Faiths: Eastern Religions: 2:00 – 3:30 Sundays, October 10, 17, and 24.

This Sunday afternoon series, which we will offer jointly with the Kent United Church of Christ, will continue with



Bailey Lund-Goldstein and Cordelia Wheatley at Cordelia's *Religion in Life Award* ceremony at church.

a focus 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 and current issues for each. The October series will meet at the UCC Church on October 10, 17, and 24. Led by Bonnie Fraser.

3) Tell Your story: 3:30 – 5:00 October 10 and 17 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 Powell.

4) Tai chi on Monday evenings: Beginners 8:00; Intermediate 7:30; Advanced 7:00 in Fessenden Hall.

An ancient Chinese meditative practice, t'ai chi is sometimes referred to as "meditation in movement." It draws upon the principles of Yin and Yang – harmony and the integration of mind and body. Tai chi, meaning the "grand Ultimate" has its roots in Taoist philosophy, which includes the concept of the need to integrate the mind and the body. Beginners can start any Monday at 8 p.m.; wear loose-fitting comfortable clothing. Recommended donation to the church \$5. Led by Susan Goekler, a certified instructor with the Tai Chi Association of Atlanta.

Our Generous Church

Some years ago it was suggested that we should take a special offering once per month for a worthy cause. Some among us expressed concern that this might adversely affect our regular Church collections -- you proved that we could do special collections and not hurt our Church -- we are indeed a Generous Church. Most of these offerings are for social justice causes, therefore our Church Board assigned the selection of the recipient of the social justice offerings to the social justice committee. If you have an idea for a social justice special offering, please come to the social justice meeting (after 2nd service on the 1st Sun. each month).

The August Special Offering was for Amnesty International -- \$671.

The September Special Offering was for Pakistan Flood Relief -- \$1311.

Peace, Mac Goekler

Si Se Puede: Teach-In on Immigrant Rights

This past July, our minister Reverend Melissa stood on the side of love by witnessing for equality and fairness for immigrants in Phoenix, Arizona. Melissa stood to protest Arizona's new immigration law, which seeks to crack down on undocumented immigrants. She stood with hundreds of other Unitarian Universalists who support our first principle: the worth and dignity of every person. She and others were arrested in actions of non-violent civil disobedience, as an expression of their deep commitment to human rights and justice.

Melissa's courageous actions have stirred discussions in our church about the issue of immigration, specifically about the opportunities and challenges facing immigrants here in Ohio. It's a divisive and sometimes confusing subject, one that we on the Social Justice Committee think deserves deeper scrutiny and broader discussion.

The Social Justice Committee of our church invites everyone to a community teach-in on immigration and immigrant rights on Saturday, November 13th here at the church. We will begin at 6PM with a community dinner, during which we will hear from keynote speaker Jeff Stewart, Coordinator of the Immigrant Worker Project in Ohio. Jeff's keynote will be followed by a panel presentation on the lives of immigrants in our state, the laws affecting immigrants in Ohio and nationwide, and what we can do to support immigrants as they struggle to build productive, happy lives here in Ohio.

The Unitarian Universalist Association at the last General Assembly voted to make immigration reform a 4-year Congregational Study/Action Issue, and over 300 UU congregations are now working with and for immigrant communities, according to the *UU World*. In addressing this issue, we in our congregation become part of a broader movement of Unitarian Universalists who stand on the side of love with immigrants and immigrant families.

We encourage everyone to attend what should be an enlightening teach-in. People of all viewpoints are welcome, and child care will be provided. For more information, contact Vivien Sandlund. Si se puede!



Money matters

The congregation has committed itself to support the work of the church through pledges and fund raising events. We ended the fiscal year 2010 on June 30 with \$2,725 more in revenues than expenditures. The congregation voted to use \$2000 of the surplus to increase what we pay the Unitarian Universalist Association (which is still below the assessed dues). Thus we ended the year in the black but by very little. We have virtually no reserves, so we depend on current giving to support our staff, maintain our building and grounds, and support programming.

So far this fiscal year, we are ahead financially and have a nice cushion because some members pay their pledges for the year at the beginning of the fiscal year. We are currently about \$4000 ahead of where we projected. The monthly pancake breakfasts and the service auction are two significant fund raisers.

In addition to the money in the church's operating budget, members of the congregation have given money for specific projects, which are set apart in separate funds. To support our outreach to the wider world and social justice activities, we conduct a special offering once a month. The Church's Social Justice Committee recommends a recipient and we send the money collected with a letter to the organization within a month. In August, congregants donated \$671 to Amnesty International and in September, you donated a total of \$1311 for the UUA/UUSC Pakistan Flood Relief Fund.

THANK YOU to all who contribute to supporting the mission of this church and organizations engaged in social justice work to make the world a better place and alleviate suffering.

Susan Goekler, treasurer



Leadership Development Retreat

The Leadership Development Team (formerly the Nominating Committee) will hold a leadership retreat on October 9th from 9:00 am to 12:00 p.m. in Fessenden Hall. Everyone who is interested in building their leadership skills is encouraged to attend. If you are a committee chair, we encourage you not only to attend, but also to bring someone from your committee who is interested in serving as chair in the future. We will provide a light snack and beverages. Hope to see you there!

Parenting Group Possibilities

Although children's lovely, spontaneous ways may re-awaken us to the world, being a parent often doesn't look anything like traveling a spiritual path. Parents have little opportunity for regular prayer or meditation, Sabbath reflection, study, or journal writing. Instead, such practices may be reduced and disrupted almost to the vanishing point. The real journey for parents leads right through the life we are living—through the chaos, the interruptions, and the exhaustion.

The Reverend Kathleen McTigue from "What's Spiritual About Parenting Young Children?"

Parenting can be one of the most life-affirming and rewarding experiences in the entirety of one's life, yet it can also be one of the most challenging and isolating. Raising children within the framework of a specific faith tradition (such as Unitarian Universalism) brings its own particular tasks. When a family chooses to raise a child within Unitarian Universalism, they hope to assure that our shared values are incorporated into the lives of their children. Certainly attending church together and enrolling children in the religious education program promotes the incorporation of our values, but often parents and guardians need more focused support to achieve their goals.

To that end, it is my hope that we will establish an ongoing program to support the parents of our church as they raise Unitarian Universalist children. I want to assure that the program actually meets the needs of our parents and guardians, so I am asking for assistance in identifying what the program should look like. A more formal survey of needs will be conducted within the next few weeks.



Library News

We hope to complete a brochure on the church library by early October, after which we will schedule an informal open house and share some of the changes we have made this fall. We have ordered several UUA Bookstore titles recommended at GA, and we are also adding a few titles in the World Religions category.

Every week at coffee hour there will be a committee member in the library to answer your questions or re-new books.

Martha Kluth

But in the meantime, I hope that parents and guardians will consider what would be most helpful to them. We can begin these considerations by looking at what has worked at our church in the past and what is being done at other churches.

Years ago there was a very successful ongoing group of parents of young children that met using a Chalice Group format to discuss topics of interest, while their children were cared for on-site. Many people have shared with me how important this group was to them.

One congregation in our district has an ongoing play group every Tuesday morning at the church. The children play within the view of the parents/guardians who engage in informal discussions of parenting issues.

The Small Group Ministry folks of the Unitarian Universalist Association have created twelve SGM sessions for parents, which offers a structured format for engaging in parenting issues.

Last winter, the RE Committee and I sponsored a very brief parenting program. We very lightly touched on Michelle Richards' book, *Tending the Flame*. Since then, Richards has created study questions to accompany her book, so we might consider reading the book together and engaging in the questions.

The UUA has some older, but still relevant and wonderful parenting programs, such as *Parents as Resident Theologians*, *Parents as Spiritual Guides*, *Parents as Social Justice Educators* and *Being a UU Parent*.

In faith and with love, Karen Lapidus
Director of Religious Education

Film on Immigration: *El Norte*

The Social Justice Committee will introduce people to the topic of immigration with a screening of the 1983 independent film *El Norte* on Friday evening, November 12 at 7:00PM at the church. The film portrays the struggle of an immigrant brother and sister from Guatemala who journey to the North, to the United States, in search of refuge and better lives. *El Norte* was nominated for an Oscar for Best Original Screenplay in 1985. The film screening is free and open to the public. A short discussion will follow the screening. Child care will be available if people request it in advance. For more information, contact Vivien Sandlund.

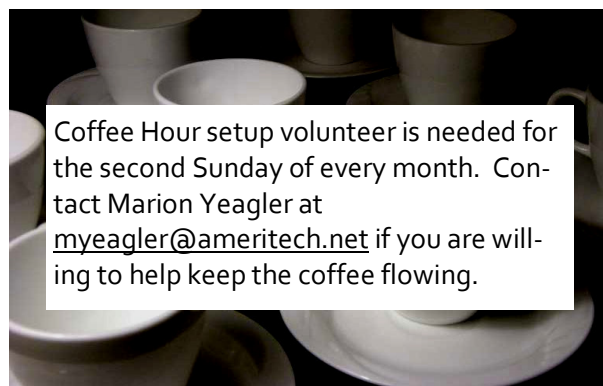
October Church Events

26 10:30 Greens mtg. <i>EA</i> 10:30 Pancakes 11:15 Adult RE <i>EA</i> 11:15 <i>EA</i> consult rm. used 12:15 Pancakes, more 2-3:30 Neighboring Faiths <i>EA</i> 3:30 Writing Group <i>EA</i> 7-9 <i>AA FH</i>	27 1-7:00 Kitchen used 7:00 Tai chi	28 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 11:15—2:15 RE consult rm used 1-3:00 Library mtg. <i>L</i> 7-9:00 Auction mtg. <i>EA</i>	29 1-7:00 Kitchen used 6-8:30 Program mtg. <i>EA</i> 6:30 Peace Choir <i>S</i> 6:45-8:45 RE mtg. <i>FH</i> 7:30 Chalice Group <i>EA</i>	30	1	2 10:30-2 Hogwarts <i>EA</i>
3 11:15 Adult RE <i>EA</i> 12:30-2:30 SJC <i>EA</i> 7-9 <i>AA FH</i>	4 7:00 Tai chi	5 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 7-9:00 Board mtg. <i>EA</i> 7-9:00 SPAN mtg. <i>S</i>	6 5-6:30 dinner <i>FH</i> 6:30 Vespers <i>S</i> 7:30-9 Religious Past <i>EA</i>	7	8 7-9:00 Big Read <i>p3</i>	9 9-3:00 Leadership <i>FH p5</i>
10 11:15 Adult RE <i>EA</i> 2-3:30 Neighboring Faiths <i>EA</i> 3:30 Writing Group <i>EA</i> 7-9 <i>AA FH</i>	11 1-7:00 Kitchen used 7:00 Tai Chi	12 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline 11:30 luncheon setup <i>FH</i> 12:00 Retirees lunch	13 1-7:00 Kitchen used 6:30 Peace Choir <i>S</i> 7-9:00 Auction planning <i>EA</i>	14	15 Newsletter dead- line Service Auction setup	16 Service Auction <i>p3</i>
17 11:15 Adult RE <i>EA p5</i> 2:00-3:30 Neighboring Faiths <i>EA</i> 7-9 <i>AA FH</i>	18 7:00 Tai chi	19 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	20 5-6:30 dinner <i>FH</i> 6:30 Vespers <i>S</i> 5:30-7:30 Safety mtg. <i>EA</i> 7:30-9 Religious Past <i>EA</i>	21	22 6-6:00 am Mon- ster Movies <i>F</i>	23
24 11:15 Adult RE <i>EA p5</i> 2-3:30 Neighboring Faiths <i>EA</i> <i>p5</i> 3:30 Writing Group <i>EA p5</i> 7-9 <i>AA FH</i>	25 1-7:00 Kitchen used 7:00 Tai chi	26 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	27 1-7:00 Kitchen used 6:45-8:45 RE mtg. <i>FH</i>	28	29 5:30p- 8:30a Youth overnight	30 3-11:00 Hallow- een Party
31 10:30 Pancakes 11:15 Adult RE <i>EA p5</i> 12:15 Pancakes x2 7-9 <i>AA FH</i>	1 7:00 Tai chi	2 Thread/Web and eNuus deadline	3 5-6:30 dinner <i>FH</i> 6:30 Vespers <i>S</i> 7:30-9 Religious Past <i>EA</i>	4	5 6-10 Recognition <i>FH</i>	6

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

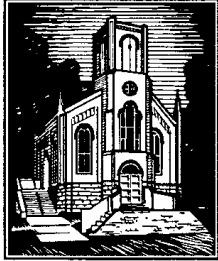
Calendar does not reflect changes or additions after September 21

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.



Coffee Hour setup volunteer is needed for
the second Sunday of every month. Con-
tact Marion Yeagler at
myeagler@ameritech.net if you are will-
ing to help keep the coffee flowing.

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



Return Service Requested
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Call the office to cancel your *Chalice Flame*

October Celtic Clan
10/4/10 7:30 practice Christie & Brad's
10/11/10 7:30 practice Christie & Brad's
10/18/10 7pm till 8pm Kent Health Care
10/25/10 7pm till 8pm Maison Ainee, Stow

Book Club meetups

On October 12 at 7 pm we will meet at the home of Betty Kendrick. We will each read a book of our choice on religious experience to share with the group. Some authors suggested at the September meeting were: Kathleen Norris, Terry Tempest-Williams, and Kevin Roose. Please bring ideas of books for the group to read in the next few months.



Val Norfolk and Mary Leeson at the Leesons' service auction party, held on the official "Talk Like a Pirate Day," Sept. 19.

Past Sermons Available for Listening

You can listen to past sermons in two ways.

Go to our church website - <http://www.kentuu.org/> and click on "Podcast link" on the right side. Scroll down to the sermon you want and click on "Play Now" to listen. To save the sermon as an mp3 file which you can transfer to your iPod, right-click on "Play Now" and choose "Save Link As". Our website provides only the sermon and other original content.

Brad Bolton